Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-176
Thursday
10 September 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-176 *10 September 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Iran Concerned by Troops on Tajik-Afghan Border *[Moscow Radio]* 2
Pacific Fleet Ships Prepare for Persian Gulf *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Japanese Official on Possibility of Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
EC Grants Baltic States Loan *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 2
German Banker on Rescheduling of Foreign Debt *[Radio Rossii]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Lithuania To Build Housing for Russian Servicemen *[Radio Rossii]* 3
Primakov on Foreign Intelligence in Baltics *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 3
CIS States To Receive Moscow Land, Apartments *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Afghan War Veterans Want To Join Peacekeepers *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
* Muslim Brotherhood Training Center in Chechen *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Aug]* 4
Caucasian Religious Council Elects New Leader *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Agricultural Developments for 30 Aug-5 Sep 4
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 9 Sep 5
For 10 Sep 6

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

'Considerations' Force Yeltsin Japan Visit Delay *[Radio Rossii]* 8
'Heated' Discussion Precedes Decision *[Tokyo KYODO]* 8
Japan Foreign Minister Affirms Commitments *[Radio Rossii]* 8
Japan Promises To Continue Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Spokesman Blames Japan *[Berlin ADN]* 9
Yeltsin's Security Plan *[Tokyo KYODO]* 9
Kurils Governor Reacts *[Moscow Radio]* 10
No Changes to China Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Germany's Chancellor Kohl Plans December Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Kozyrev Meets PLO Official on Peace Process *[Russian TV]* 10
Peres Letter for PLO Denied *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Sep]* 10
Government Approves Culture Agreement With Israel *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 Sep]* 10
Kozyrev Meets Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Indian Defense Minister Continues Visit *[IZVESTIYA 9 Sep]* 11
Burbulis Assesses Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Shokhin Discusses Roundtable Talks With Poland *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Polish Official on Cooperation Prospects *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
UN's Butrus-Ghali Reviews Visit to Moscow *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 8 Sep]* 12
Holds News Conference *[INTERFAX]* 13
Yeltsin Sends Message to Nonaligned Movement *[Radio Rossii]* 13
Khasbulatov Briefs Strauss on Parliament Agenda *[Russian TV]* 13
Grachev Meets With French Ambassador *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Sep]* 14
Moscow, ROK Sign Accord To Prevent Sea Incidents *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Churkin on Relations With Baltic States *[KURANTY 8 Sep]* 14
Gaydar Hails Trade Agreement With Estonia *[INTERFAX]* 16
Estonian Official 'Content' With Russian Talks *[BALTFAX]* 16
Shokhin, Lithuanian Counterpart on Economic Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Kozyrev on Caucasus 'Strategic Significance' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 Sep]* 17
Belarus To Collaborate on Foreign Intelligence *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 5 Sep]* 17
Intelligence Runs International Treaty Compliance *[INTERFAX]* 17
Gorbachev 'Exploring' U.S. Ambassador Position *[INTERFAX]* 18

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Military Issues

Yeltsin Orders Troops to Border With Azerbaijan *[Moscow International]* 19
Ministry Asks Azerbaijan Forgiveness of Officer *[Moscow Radio]* 19
Defense Minister Implements Military Decrees *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 Sep]* 19

Political Issues

Sobchak To Challenge Yeltsin for Presidency *[Milan IL GIORNALE 8 Sep]* 19
Yeltsin Reorganizes Information Bureau *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Officials Explain New Foreign Intelligence Law *[Moscow TV]* 21
People's Party Charges Corruption in Ministry *[INTERFAX]* 21
Commission To Reorganize Managerial Structures *[INTERFAX]* 22
Bocharov Heads News International Russian Club *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 4 Sep]* 22
Communist Parties Form Umbrella Organization *[PRAVDA 5 Sep]* 22

Economic Issues

Government Sets Energy Policy, Gas Price Curbs *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Session Views Privatization, Prices *[Russian TV]* 23
Yeltsin Supports Cabinet Session on Privatization *[INTERFAX]* 23
Industry Minister Submits Denationalization Plan *[INTERFAX]* 24
Privatization Process Meets With Problems *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Government Issues Social Protection Program *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Gaydar on Problems of Post-Socialist Economy *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 Sep]* 24
Downturn in Inflation Seen as Illusory *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 Sep]* 26
Situation Deteriorates in Food Market *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Grain Sales to State Down From Last Year *[IZVESTIYA 4 Sep]* 28

Scientific Issues

Institute Improves Satellite Launch System *[INTERFAX]* 28

Supreme Soviet

Fifth Session of Supreme Soviet To Meet 22 Sep *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Russian Unity's Isakov Previews Session *[PRAVDA 5 Sep]* 29
Deputy: Khasbulatov 'Acts Aimed Coup d'Etat' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 10 Sep]* 30
Khasbulatov Conduct at Session Criticized *[IZVESTIYA 9 Sep]* 30
Parliament Postpones IZVESTIYA Discussion *[INTERFAX]* 31

Regional Affairs

Chechen Roundtable Rallying Caucasian Peoples *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Dudayev Threatens 'War' Over Air Links *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 8 Sep]* 32
Dagestan Supreme Soviet Adopts New Constitution *[Russian TV]* 32
Tatar Official on Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan Ties *[INTERFAX]* 32
Tatarstan May 'Opt for Soft Privatization' *[INTERFAX]* 33
St. Petersburg Mayor Views Current Situation *[Russian TV]* 33
Tsyplyayev To Represent Yeltsin in St. Petersburg *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 Sep]* 34
International Conference Discusses Kaliningrad *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 34
Yeltsin Decree Opens Sverdlovsk's Closed Areas *[Moscow Radio]* 34
20 Large Khabarovsk Enterprises Shut Down *[Russian TV]* 35
Penza Military Plant Producing Wheelchairs *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 Sep]* 35
Nizhniy Novgorod Military Equipment Fair Open *[Moscow TV]* 35

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Gromov Opposes Decision on Naval Schools *[Kiev International]* 36
Ministry Calls For New Fleet Commander *[INTERFAX]* 36
Agreement on Combating Crime Signed With Austria *[Kiev International]* 36
Australian National Appointed Consul *[Kiev International]* 36
Fokin Asks IMF For Funds To Stabilize New Currency *[Kiev International]* 36

National Affairs

Kravchuk on Purposes of State Grain Order *[Kiev TV]* 37
Fokin Views Gravity of Grain Problem *[Kiev International]* 37
Kravchuk on Economy, Political Frictions *[IZVESTIYA 10 Sep]* 38
Experts Predict Large Increase in Unemployment *[Kiev Radio]* 39
Official Details Work of Next Council Session *[Kiev Radio]* 39
Parties Unite To Form 'New Crimea' Organization *[Kiev International]* 39
Trade Unions Issue Statement on Property Issues *[Kiev Radio]* 39
Increase in Number of Joint Ventures Noted *[Kiev International]* 40
Figures on Half-Year Exports, Debt Released *[Kiev International]* 40

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Prime Minister Decries Corruption, Crime *[INTERFAX]* 41
Shushkevich Holds Talks With CIS Forces Chief *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Drought Claims Large Amounts of Flax Crop *[Moscow TV]* 41
Opposition Stages Battle Anniversary Celebration *[Moscow TV]* 41

Moldova

Commission Propses End to Dniester Emergency *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Peacekeeping Forces Being Cut in Bendery *[Radio Rossii]* 42
Agreement on Dniester Government Structure *[Radio Rossii]* 42
Popular Front Continues Attacks on President Snegur *[ITAR-TASS]* 42

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Official on Grain Prices, Sales to Russia *[Moscow TV]* 44
Nazarbayev Views Economic Situation *[KAZTAG]* 44
Official Clarifies Russian Military Accords *[KAZTAG]* 45
Proposal for Asian Version of CSCE *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Sep]* 45
Armenia's Hovannisian Sends Note on Forming Ties *[INTERFAX]* 45
Foreign Lawyers Examine Draft Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 46
Nazarbayev Receives German Ministry Official *[KAZTAG]* 46
Mongolian Ambassador Presents Credentials *[KAZTAG]* 46
Decree Appoints New Baykonur Space Center Chief *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 Sep]* 46

Kyrgyzstan

Presidential Adviser on German Relations *[INTERFAX]* 46

Tajikistan

Few Know Nabiyev Whereabouts; Safety Guaranteed *[Moscow Radio]* 47
Opposition Said Preparing Assault on Kalininabad *[Moscow TV]* 47
CIS Border Troops Arrive Upon Leadership Request *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Russian Officers Cited on Situation *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA]* 48
Muslim Leader Approves of Nabiyev's Resignation *[INTERFAX]* 48
Iskandarov Addresses International Tajik Forum *[INTERFAX]* 48
Iskandarov Talks With Uzbek's Karimov on Phone *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Sep]* 49
Decree Restricts Outgoing Information, Video *[Moscow TV]* 49

Turkmenistan

PRC Envoy Presents Credentials; Discusses Ties *[Moscow TV]* 49
Pharmaceuticals Plant To Stop Exporting *[Moscow TV]* 49

Uzbekistan

Advanced Technology Yields Increased Harvest *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Nonaligned Movement Admits Uzbekistan *[Moscow Radio]* 50
Karimov Abolishes Oil Products Supply Committee *[INTERFAX]* 50
Tajik Refugees Refused Entry Into Country *[INTERFAX]* 50
Government Adopts Law on Conscription *[Moscow Radio]* 50

President Receives Credentials of New U.S. Envoy *[INTERFAX]* 51
Constitutional Commission Discusses Draft Law *[Moscow Radio]* 51
Presidential Quarterly Press Bulletin Planned *[INTERFAX]* 51

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Turkey Said To Provide Weapons to Nakhichevan *[SNARK]* 52
Spokesman Says Arms Aid 'Unconfirmed' *[Yerevan International]* 52
CIS, Russian Aides on Turkish Aircraft Mishap *[IZVESTIYA 9 Sep]* 52
Ministry on Russian Transfer of Aircraft *[Yerevan International]* 52
Nation May Quit CIS if Azerbaijan Joins *[INTERFAX]* 52
Update on Karabakh, Border Area Clashes *[Yerevan Radio]* 53
Official Asks States, Organizations for Observers *[Yerevan Radio]* 53
CSCE Chairman Rafaelli Denounces Azerbaijan *[ITAR-TASS]* 54

Azerbaijan

Official Denies Attempt To Kill President *[TURAN]* 55
Defense Minister Dismisses Coup Rumors *[Istanbul GUNAYDIN]* 55
Rafaelli 'Not Satisfied' With Cease-Fire Reply *[Radio Rossii]* 55
Spokesmen Trade Charges on Cease-Fire Violations *[INTERFAX]* 55

Georgia

Abkhazia Factions Agree to 10 Sep Cease-Fire *[INTERFAX]* 56
Cease-Fire 'Mostly Observed' *[INTERFAX]* 56
State Council on 'Third Force' *[INTERFAX]* 56
Kitovani Threatens To Use Afghan Veterans *[Russian TV]* 56
Ioseliani Interviewed on Hostilities *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Sep]* 57

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Hardware Logistics Hamper Paratroop Pullout *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 Sep]* 58
Building Values Dispute Delays Post Transfer *[Tallinn Radio]* 58
Council Deputy Criticizes Growing Militarization *[PRAVDA 9 Sep]* 58
Premier Regrets Deputy Minister's Criticisms *[Tallinn Radio]* 58
New Russian Envoy Holds First News Conference *[BALTFAX]* 59

Lithuania

Russian Oil Shipments Remain Suspended *[BALTFAX]* 59
Budget Spending Exceeds Government Expectations *[Vilnius International]* 59
Delegation Signs Economic Accord With Tatarstan *[Vilnius Radio]* 60
Sixth Session of Parliament Opens *[BALTFAX]* 60

Yeltsin Postpones Visits to Japan, ROK

Russian President Yeltsin decided yesterday, after "taking account of a range of considerations and of the exchange of views with those in charge of the government, the Supreme Soviet, and the Security Council," to postpone his official visits to Japan and Korea, according to Radio Rossii. INTERFAX reports that Yeltsin's new date for a visit to Japan is "still undetermined." Yeltsin's trip to South Korea "has been rescheduled for December in the framework of his trip abroad, including China." Japan's Foreign Minister Watanabe pointed out "the decision to postpone the visit would not affect the obligations Tokyo has already undertaken to help Russia," nor would the decision result in "any significant changes" in the two countries' relations, according to Moscow radio. Yeltsin's press spokesman Kostikov is quoted in a Berlin ADN report as saying that "those responsible in Japan are not prepared for reasonable political compromises on the Kuril issue."

Internal Troops Sent To Close Dagestan-Azerbaijan Border

At the order of Russian President Yeltsin, units of the internal forces have been sent to the Republic of Dagestan in the northern Caucasus, part of the Russian Federation, reports Moscow international. According to a statement from the Russian Interior Ministry, "the introduction of the units is not connected with restricting the rights and freedoms of civilians or with interference in the political life of Dagestan," but they are to "close the border between Dagestan and neighboring Azerbaijan, which is in a state of war with Armenia."

Rival Abkhazian Factions Agree to 10 Sep Cease-Fire

"Warring factions" in Abkhazia agreed yesterday to cease fire on 10 September, INTERFAX reports. The "protocol," signed by Georgian Prime Minister Sigua, Abkhaz minister Labakhua, and Deputy Chairman of Russia's State Committee for Emergencies Vorobyov, says "all armed forces must be disengaged and all hostages and prisoners of war released" on 10 September. According to Sukhumi and Gagry military authorities, today "the conflicting sides mostly observed the cease-fire."

Meanwhile, Georgian Defense Minister Kitovani announced yesterday that "if the Abkhazians start a partisan war, battle-hardened Afghan veterans will be sent to the front lines to replace the young soldiers," according to Russian TV.

Iran Concerned by Troops on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1009080392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Iran has expressed concern over the deployment of CIS troops on the frontier between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The TEHRAN TIMES newspaper stated that it is possible for the government in Dushanbe to resolve its problems without a military presence.

A few days ago, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan agreed to send in troops to stop the unrest in Tajikistan. Hundreds of people have been killed in that republic in battles between the Tajik opposition and the communist supporters of the president, who was forced to resign on 7 September. The situation in Tajikistan is being aggravated by the influx of weapons supplied to it from Afghanistan by Muslim groups.

Pacific Fleet Ships Prepare for Persian Gulf

LD0709061992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0603 GMT 7 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergei Makarevsky and Timofei Orehkov]

[Text] Vladivostok, September 7 TASS—The big anti-submarine ship Admiral Vinogradov and the tanker Boris Butoma that are in service with the Pacific Fleet will sail out of Vladivostok and head to the Gulf in the next few days, a spokesman in the press centre of the Pacific Fleet told ITAR-TASS.

They will participate within the multi-national force in implementing the UN resolution to monitor Iraq's actions. The ships are expected to make two to three visits to foreign ports during the four-month sail. The ships that carry 400 Russian seamen do not have nuclear weapons.

Japanese Official on Possibility of Aid

LD0909180692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1006 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, 8 Sep—Answering a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official who requested anonymity said it was quite probable that the Tokyo conference on rendering assistance to the 12 former USSR republics [28-29 October] may become the last forum of this kind. He referred to the fact that at the Munich G-7 meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the issue of setting up consultative groups on rendering assistance to each of the above republics individually. Such groups have not yet been set up. In theory there may be 12 of them, the same as the number of countries that are recipients of assistance, or less, if the countries are united in groups. "It is difficult to indicate when exactly these groups are to be set up, but there is a possibility that a number of announcements in this respect will be made at the Tokyo conference," the Japanese diplomat said.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry official said that the consultative groups envisaged by the decisions of the Munich summit are intended to stimulate structural reforms and to coordinate technical assistance; but there is no mention of them being involved in rendering financial assistance. He did not, however, exclude the possibility of these groups dealing with problems of financial assistance in the future.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that research missions are being sent to the CIS to get an accurate idea of the harvest situation as the winter draws near, and also of what medical equipment is required. The results of these investigations will not be known before the second half of September. Two such delegations have already visited the former USSR on the initiative of the United States. Another delegation, which includes Japanese representatives, is currently visiting Siberia and regions of the Russian Federation Far East.

EC Grants Baltic States Loan

WS0909130492 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1739 GMT 8 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 74]

[Text] 8 September 1992—The EC countries ministers of finance have come to an agreement to grant Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 300 mln USD loan which will enable the Baltic States to cover half of this year's deficit amounting to 600 mln USD. Other industrial countries have promised 270 mln USD to the Baltic States. The loans will be allotted on the condition that each Baltic State will come to an understanding with the International Monetary Fund in respect of its programme of the economic reforms.

German Banker on Rescheduling of Foreign Debt

LD1009082492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The director of the German Deutsche Bank announced at a news conference in Kiev that the governments of Western countries will probably adopt a plan on rescheduling the repayment of the foreign debts by the republics of the former USSR. According to the German banker a decision on this may be made next Friday at a session of [words indistinct] of creditor countries. The USSR's debt to foreign countries is approximately $70 billion.

Lithuania To Build Housing for Russian Servicemen

LD0609221492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Sep 92

[Report on news conference by representatives of the Baltic Fleet Command and the Lithuanian Government in Kaliningrad on 5 September]

[Text] It is very likely that negotiations on the timetable and conditions for the withdrawal of Russian forces from Lithuania will at last be getting under way. This was unequivocally stated at a news conference held today by Admiral Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet, and representatives of the government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The timetable for the withdrawal of one of the divisions of the Baltic Fleet has been released. It will leave the territory of the adjoining state by the end of 1993. In connection with this, it has to be emphasized that the joint initiative on this matter comes not from the politicians of the two states but from the Baltic Fleet command and the private firm (Selma). The agreement signed by the two sides outlines the path for resolving one of the most painful problems in the Russian Army—the provision of housing for its professional officers and their families. On the Lithuanian side, the Selma association is committed to building a housing complex in Kaliningrad comprising 2,752 apartments with its own trading center, a school, and a kindergarten within two and one-half years, using only its own resources.

In turn the Baltic Fleet will hand over part of its armaments and four vessels for the coast guard of the Lithuanian Fleet that is being set up. Yet this does not mean that the houses are being swapped directly for vessels, Yuriy Matochkin, head of the oblast administration, stressed at the news conference. This does not mean that the vessels are being exchanged for housing to the detriment of Russia's security, the fleet commander added. This is only the beginning of wide-ranging cooperation on a new stage of good neighborly relations between the Yantar free economic zone and sovereign Lithuania. The plans for the future housing complex were presented at the news conference.

Primakov on Foreign Intelligence in Baltics

WS0909130292 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1739 GMT 8 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 74]

[Text] 8 September 1992 [dateline as received]—On signing the treaty of cooperation between the Russian secret services and the Belorusian KGB, head of the Russian intelligence service academician Yevgeniy Primakov has pointed out that, according to the leader of one of the Baltic States, foreign intelligence special services will be allowed to operate in the Baltic countries. If this should happen, Y. Primakov said, Russia will resort to retaliatory measures. The implication of this statement is enhanced by the fact that none of the Baltic leaders has ever spoken of the matter.

CIS States To Receive Moscow Land, Apartments

LD0809212292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 8 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—Missions, cultural centres, trading houses and other organisations of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Estonia will soon be housed in Moscow.

The Moscow premier issued instructions to allocate them plots of land, premises for offices and flats. Besides, government and commercial organisations from these republics will be granted priority opportunities to participate in the privatisation of trading and public catering establishments, hotels, warehouses and other premises under intergovernment agreements on cooperation signed recently in Moscow.

For instance, the Moscow administration will help the Azeri mission in obtaining living quarters and premises for a republican business centre. The building of the Kazakhstan cinema and the adjacent land will be used for Kazakhstan's business centre.

A Ukrainian cultural centre will open in the Arbat Street, and Estonia's similar establishment will be housed in the Semashko Street.

In turn, Moscow missions will receive adequate premises and flats in the above countries.

Afghan War Veterans Want To Join Peacekeepers

LD0309180892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 3 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—Afghan war veterans want to create their own detachments which will join CIS peace-keeping forces deployed in various "hot spots", including Abkhazia.

The idea was voiced by representatives of Afghan War Veterans' Committees of Russia, Georgia and North Caucasian republics at a meeting with Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis on Thursday [3 September].

The idea of creating CIS peace-keeping forces was advanced by "Afghans", as they are called in Russia, last June at a meeting in Tbilisi. They worked out ways of deployment of the forces and disengaging the conflicting sides which were used in South Ossetia and in the Dniester region of Moldova. However, the Russian Government did not support the idea of creating purely "Afghan" peace-keeping units.

Former Georgian defence minister Nodar Georgadze believes it is much better to use the "Afghans" as an organised force rather than see them fight as mercenaries in conflicts, like it happens in Nagorno-Karabakh.

He said after the meeting with the state secretary that Burbulis promised to report the proposal to President Boris Yeltsin and other participants in the Russian-Georgian summit in Moscow. "We hope for a positive solution of our issue", Georgadze said.

The "Afghans" denounced the interference of the Confederation of Caucasian Highlanders into the Abkhazian conflict. Dagestani representative Omar Murtazaliyev said the Confederation "adds grist to the mill". Yuriy Rulin from southern Krasnodar region accused the Confederation of seeking political goals. Under the pretext of the Abkhazian conflict the Highlanders occupied important heights over the Russian cities of Sochi and Tuapse. It is a "well-thought out plan of taking teritories where Russians live", he warned.

* Muslim Brotherhood Training Center in Chechen

92P40268A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 92 p 4

[Report by Sami 'Ammarah]

[Text] Moscow—Yesterday in Moscow, it was disclosed that, for the first time, the international Muslim Brotherhood movement has opened a branch in what was formerly called the Soviet Union. Yesterday, news from Groznyy, the capital of the Chechen Republic, noted that the international Muslim Brotherhood organization had opened the first of its centers there for the training of Chechen nationals by experts from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, and Algeria.

The Eurasia News Agency [Yevraziya] reported that there are 150 students in the first class in the Muslim Brotherhood's training center. They are being trained in using the latest weapons, explosives, and air defense equipment.

The news agency indicated that the Muslim Brotherhood center in the Middle East is taking the responsibility for all costs in financing the Muslim Brotherhood training center in Groznyy.

According to sources in Groznyy, it is expected that the authorities in the Chechen Republic will open other training centers to prepare five other teams of the same kind, as they put it, "to resist the likely aggression by Russia and to eliminate local elements which aid foreign circles in interfering in the republic's internal affairs."

Caucasian Religious Council Elects New Leader

LD0809200292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] Baku September 8 TASS—Shaykh ul-Islam Allakhshukyur Pasha-Zade who leads the Caucasian Moslems' board, was elected chairman of the Supreme Religious Council of Caucasian Peoples.

"We Caucasian religious leaders see our sacred duty in influencing the minds and hearts of people by joint efforts and inspiring good and lofty intentions in them, which would conform to the noble ideals of 'a Caucasian House'," the shaykh told the AZERINFORM news agency on his return on Tuesday [8 September] from Groznyy where he was elected council head unanimously.

The shaykh expressed hope that religious leaders would coordinate efforts to make people forget offences of the past, to inculcate mutual trust and respect for one another and to direct thoughts to peaceful life.

Agricultural Developments for 30 Aug-5 Sep

LD0609052892

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments monitored from CIS and Baltic sources from 30 August to 5 September.

BELARUS

According to the State Statistics Committee, grain and bean crops were harvested from 2.456 million hectares, a "slightly smaller area than last year." Nevertheless, the yield this year was "significantly higher than last year. By 24 August, 7.407 million tonnes of grain were threshed." [Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Sep 92]

KAZAKHSTAN

"Farms in lowland areas of Taldiy-Kurgan oblast have completed the grain harvest." In hillier areas, where wheat ripens later, the harvesting is not complete. In the lowlands, preparation of the land for next year has begun. "The first 10,000 hectares of early fallow has already been ploughed." [Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Aug 92]

In Kustaniy oblast, 130,000 hectares of grain as been threshed with an average yield of 9.1 quintals per hectare. The total amount of grain in Dzhambul oblast is 940,000 tonnes, 60,000 tonnes more than planned. The yield was 17.3 quintal per hectare versus an expected yield of 15.6. [Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0930 GMT 31 Aug 92]

Grain-growing regions have already sold 1,000,221 tonnes of grain to the state. "About 20,000 tonnes of the state order have been purchased by the government-owned [word indistinct]. In all, the Kazakhstan cooperators have gathered in 20 percent of the whole [word

indistinct] harvest in the republic." [Alma-Ata Radio Alma-Ata World Service in English 2030 GMT 4 Sep 92]

LATVIA

According to the Ministry of Agriculture information service, three quarters of the grain crop, 340,00 hectares from jointly-owned farms, have been harvested. The average yield was 23.5 quintals per hectare. More than 18,000 hectares of rye and other winter crops has been sown already, with the greatest amount in Saldus and Preili rayons. [Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 1 Sep 92]

LITHUANIA

The Statistics Department reports that 79 percent of grain and bean crops have been harvested with a yield of 25 quintals per hectare. Additionally, 15 percent of the corn crop and 43 percent of the flax crop has been harvested. Winter grain crops have been sown on 6,800 hectares, and another 123,500 have been ploughed. According to Deputy Minister of Agriculture Saulius Lamanauskas, 400,000 hectares will be sown for winter crops. [Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 1 Sep 92]

RUSSIA

Silos in Altay report the delivery of 150,000 tonnes of grain. While this "seems little for a total area grain-growing area of 4 million hectares, farmers are now hurrying to sell because of the new procurement prices, which are on average 27 times higher than last year. However, there are problems with transportation."

Voronezh oblast farmers have reportedly completed harvesting and threshing spring grain crops, "but are reluctant to hand it over to the state." Only one rayon out of 31 has met its delivery target, and 2 million tonnes have been stockpiled on farms. [Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Aug 92]

Grain sales in Belgorod oblast have slowed due to what an ITAR-TASS correspondent describes as the "wait-and-see tactics of grain producers." Specialists say that "farms have decided to fulfill the remainder of planned orders with groat crops that are not yet ripe." [Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 31 Aug 92]

In Tula, 670,000 hectares of grain have been harvested, 90 percent of the total. The average yield is 24 quintals per hectare. Of the planned 300,000 tonnes of grain, 200,000 have already been sold to the state. [Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Sep 92]

UKRAINE

Kharkov oblast, "Ukraine's largest producer" of sugar beets, has started its harvest. The target is 300,000 tonnes, 50,000 more than last year. "To achieve this, more land has been sown with beets, and the oblast's 11 sugar refineries have been modernized." [Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Aug 92]

Dnepropetrovsk oblast has begun harvesting corn for silage. "The harvest has been gathered on 40 percent of the territories," gathering 1.3 million tonnes of silage. Farms in the Novomoskovsk and Dnepropetrovsk rayons have gathered "the largest harvest." Preparation of 61 percent of the land planned for winter crops is complete. [Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 31 Aug 92]

The State Committee for Grain Products reports that as of 30 August, "the state has received 9.691 million tonnes of grain, making up 66 percent of the target envisaged by Cabinet of Ministers' resolution on immediate measures to satisfy the Republic's need for grain." The state order for grain procurement has been only 57 percent fulfilled. [Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 31 Aug 92]

"It is unlikely that the state will be able to purchase 17 million tonnes of grain from the Republic's farms. Therefore, it is impossible to rule out purchases of grain abroad. This thought was expressed by Valentyn Lytvyn, deputy chairman of the State Committee of Ukraine for Bread Products, in an interview for a correspondent of PRAVDA UKRAYINY newspaper." [Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 5 Sep 92]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 9 Sep

LD0909152892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 9 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS— A regular meeting of the foreign ministers of CIS countries, which opened in Minsk on September 8, and a meeting in the Kremlin between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Lithuanian Parliament Chief Vytautas Landsbergis on the same day are the leading topics in the morning editions of today's Moscow-based newspapers.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (the independent newspaper), noting that 13 documents have been put on a tentative agenda of the CIS foreign ministers' meeting and are to be brought up for discussion at the forthcoming meeting of the CIS heads of state in Bishkek on September 25, points out that most noteworthy is a package of military issues. They concern in particular "a concept of the collective military security of CIS countries, their nuclear strategy as well as a statute of the main command of the CIS Armed Forces".

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists that the ministers focused on the discussion of a CIS charter which, he said, "should be the height of all legislative work within the CIS framework, not the beginning of it".

On the same subject, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes about "serious attention" which analysts devote to the above-mentioned meeting in Bishkek in view of the recent initiatives proposed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan who calls for recreating a single state on the one-sixth of the world's land (even if in the form of a confederation).

Touching upon the Moscow meeting between Yeltsin and Landsbergis, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that they did not sign any documents. Russian-Lithuanian agreements, signed at the defence ministers' level, deal in particular with a timetable for the withdrawal of the Russian Federation's troops from the territory of Lithuania.

The newspaper quotes Yeltsin's brief statement to the effect that "a treaty on cooperation between Lithuania and Russia will be signed in one month's time". In the opinion of the Russian president, "there are no political obstacles to that".

Speaking at a news conference at the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow, Landsbergis described the accord reached on Tuesday during the meeting with Yeltsin and the documents signed by the two countries' defence ministers as a "mutual achievement", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA singles out an interview given to AFTENPOSTEN newspaper by Nobel Institute Director Geyr Lunstadt who said that Boris Yeltsin's name had appeared among candidacies for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Under the headline "Russia will be saved by people who have no hatred in their eyes", PRAVDA runs the full text of an interview with Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

To get the Russian economy out of the crisis, he believes, it is essential to change policy through parliamentary methods, or, to be more exact, to replace those politicians "who bamboozle the people with yarns that everything would be in plentiful supply now that freedom and independence have been gained".

Volskiy mentioned it as one of the main tasks of industrialists to work for an adjustment of reforms being effected in Russia so as to "prevent a break-up of the economy and an overall slump in production".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), PRAVDA and other newspapers carry reports on the resignation of President Rakhmon Nabiyev of Tajikistan. It is pointed out that he was stripped of power "in a forcible manner".

For 10 Sep

LD1009044792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0441 GMT 10 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, September 10 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's newspapers report that President Boris Yeltsin cancelled his visit to Japan. The newspaper PRAVDA describes this report as sensational.

TRUD believes that "mindful of the set of circumstances and the exchange of views with senior government officials, the leaders of the Supreme Soviet and the Security Council, the president decided to put off his official visits to Japan and South Korea."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA argues that the reason for cancelling the visit lies in the involved nature and the impossibility to settle the problem of the Kuril Islands, which is the core problem of Russian-Japanese relations.

The newspaper writes: "it became clear that even the minimum advantage from the Far Eastern voyage can be gained only if Russia concedes at least two of the disputed islands. The internal political intrigue of recent months made any decisive steps in this direction absolutely inconceivable." In its view, the cancelling of Yeltsin's visit to Japan is "the fifteenth variant of solving the Kuril problem."

Newspapers give broad coverage to reports from the CIS flashpoints. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that "The Abkhazian conflict is at the negotiating stage." Members of the commission to monitor the fulfillment of the Moscow ceasefire accords met in Sukhumi.

TRUD informs its readers: "The warring parties in Abkhazia cease fire and all hostilities at 00:00 on September 10. The warring armed groups begin to be disengaged."

The situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border has somewhat stabilised despite shootouts breaking out from time to time, PRAVDA points out. It quotes D. Shakhnazaryan, a representative of the Armenian president in peace efforts initiated by Kazakhstan, who commented on the regular round of consultations on the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh that opened in Rome within the CSCE framework.

"One can hardly expect any progress in peace efforts without recognising the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic as an equal participant in the talks within the CSCE framework, especially since this organisation has no real levers to influence the situation at present," Shakhnazaryan said.

Armenia is against Azerbaijan's admission to the Commonwealth of Independent States, PRAVDA quotes press secretary to the Armenian President P. Shugaryan as saying. At present, Baku is waging an open war of annihilation against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh. Therefore, if the CIS member-countries do not take this into account and at the Bishkek summit will decide to meet Azerbaijan's request without any conditions, Armenia will be forced to revise its attitude to CIS.

The newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA emphasises that "the forced resignation of President

Rakhman Nabiyev, which was signed at Dushanbe airport on Monday, did not bring the expected stabilization to Tajikistan although this is now the main task of the opposition."

PRAVDA observes in this regard that "independence day that was marked by Tajikistan on Tuesday became without all metaphors a holiday with tears in one's eyes. Bursts rathern than the melodies of an orchestra resounded in the Kurgan-Tyube region and as before the blood of people who clashed in the fratricidal war was spilled there."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA comments on the instruction adopted by the government in August to send home Vietnamese workers. It agrees that the crime rate in the Vietnamese colony is very high. About 10,000 Vietnamese now living on the territory of the former Soviet Union were brought to court and held to administrative account in the last three years.

Nevertheless, this situation does not require rash conclusions, the newspaper notes. It believes that "there is a desire in Russia to create a negative atmosphere around Vietnamese. The rapid growth of Vietnamese businessmen's incomes draws irritation, envy and concern with magnates of the Russian market." The newspaper concludes: "the aforementioned instruction became the consequence of someone's powerful anti-Vietnamese lobbyism."

In the newspaper TRUD, a group of eminent personalities of Russian culture appealed to the public "to protect the book—this generally recognised cultural base of any state." In the letter, writer Leonid Leonov, Russian international culture foundation chairman Dmitriy Likhachev, CIS academy of sciences' council of directors chief Guriy Marchuk and chairman of the international book lovers' society Igor Petryanov-Sokolov point out that "the exorbitant prices for paper, taxes, the steep increase in the rent and other expenditures put major publishing houses and book trading enterprises on the verge of bankruptcy. Book prices are snowballing. The majority of people can no longer afford classics and contemporary literature. The number of book titles published was almost halved."

'Considerations' Force Yeltsin Japan Visit Delay

LD0909161592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] According to the press service of the president of Russia, taking account of a range of considerations and of the exchange of views with those in charge of the government, the Supreme Soviet and the Security Council, President Boris Yeltsin has decided to postpone his official visits to Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The dates of the visits will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels. The president's decision does not affect the good-neighborly nature of relations with both states, notes the statement.

The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry has been instructed to continue with the preparations of the president's visit and of the talks on issues of interest to the sides with the purpose of retaining the dynamic nature of the ties between Russia and Japan and Russia and Korea.

The Japanese side's reaction to the postponement of the Russian President's visit to Tokyo has already been received. At an emergency news conference in the Japanese capital, Kato, cabinet chief secretary, expressed regret in connection with the Russian president's decision to postpone the date of his visit. He also expressed the hope that the circumstances which prevented the trip would be overcome in the nearest future.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1559 GMT on 9 September adds the following: "Boris Yeltsin's official visit to South Korea has been rescheduled for December in the framework of his trip abroad, including China.

["The Russian president's new date for a visit to Japan is still undetermined."]

'Heated' Discussion Precedes Decision

OW1009034592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0330 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 10 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, after a heated three-hour discussion in the Security Council, made his own decision to postpone a scheduled four-day visit to Japan due to start Sunday [13 September], government sources said Wednesday [9 September].

During the session of Russia's highest decision-making body, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev insisted that Yeltsin should go to Tokyo as scheduled, saying postponement of the visit would deepen the Japanese people's distrust of Russia.

But hardliners in the council, headed by Yuriy Skokov, strongly objected to the visit, citing an unstable domestic situation and Japan's negative stance on massive economic aid to Russia, the sources said.

After hearing the heated discussion at the session lasting from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Wednesday, Yeltsin made a final decision to postpone his visit to Japan and South Korea.

The council, including Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, is said to be dominated by members who have taken tough positions on a decades-old territorial dispute with Japan.

The dispute involves a group of four islands located off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Yeltsin telephoned Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Wednesday night to inform him of his decision to postpone the visit.

Japan Foreign Minister Affirms Commitments

LD0909222892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] A visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin is unlikely to take place in the course of this year, Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe said today. According to Watanabe, the Russian head of state has informed Tokyo that he would find it difficult to leave the country by the end of the current year. The Japanese minister has made it known that Japan would not insist on going ahead with the visit this year. Watanabe has pointed out that the decision to postpone the visit would not affect the obligations Tokyo has already undertaken to help Russia.

Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa has also pointed out that the postponement of the visit would not mean any significant changes in the relations between the two countries.

Japan Promises To Continue Aid

LD1009084192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0819 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo September 10 TASS—Japan will continue to provide the promised 2.65 billion dollars in aid to Russia despite Moscow's decision to put off President Boris Yeltsin's visit, a spokesman in the Japanese Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS today.

The postponement of the visit will also not influence Japan's intention to hold an international conference on problems of extending aid to new independent states, as Russia and 11 former Soviet republics except the three Baltic states are named in the West, in Tokyo in late October.

Eighty million out of 2.65 billion dollars have been extended by now, including 50 million in the form of gratis humanitarian aid, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

An agreement to issue the 100-million-dollar credit for the urgent purchases of food and medicines, which was promised back in December 1990, and also to earmark another 700 million in the form of the insurance of bilateral trade and economic operations was expected during Yeltsin's visit.

Spokesman Blames Japan

LD1009101892 Berlin ADN in German 0937 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Moscow/Beijing (ADN)—Moscow blamed Japan today for the fact that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has postponed his visit to Tokyo. Yeltsin's press spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told the news agency RIA that those responsible in Japan are not prepared for "reasonable political compromises" on the Kuril issue. He attributed this "hardline" stand to internal disputes in Japan, which are intensifying in the run-up to the elections there. [passage omitted]

Speculation that the postponement on Wednesday [9 September] could be linked to a weakening of Yeltsin's position in the Russian Security Council was rejected by Kostikov. The final decision was made by this body on Wednesday afternoon, he said. The spokesman said: "The president is the key figure in the Security Council. He does not allow himself to be put under pressure. There can be no question of weakening the position of the Russian president within the power structures." [passage omitted]

Yeltsin's Security Plan

OW1009023192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0222 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By Katherina Pechko]

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 10 KYODO—Before his abrupt decision to indefinitely put off his Japan trip, Russian President Boris Yeltsin was considering taking to Tokyo a number of proposals regarding Asia-Pacific security, according to one of the visit's planners.

The proposals could have formed a basis for further negotiations including the United States, China, and North and South Korea, said Vladlen Martynov, a member of the committee planning Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo.

Russia on Wednesday [9 September] abruptly announced that Yeltsin was postponing his official visit to Japan, which had been slated for Sunday [13 September] through Wednesday [16 September].

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE before the surprise announcement, Martynov said Tokyo and Moscow must jointly agree on lowering regional troop levels so that Russia does not "fall into a mousetrap" in the Okhotsk Sea.

"We cannot solve the security problems even in the 'Northern Territories' in the interests of Russia and Japan without the United States," Martynov said, using the term by which four disputed Russian-held islands off Hokkaido are known in Japan.

"We would like Japan, a great industrial country, to play a bigger political role in this region and in the whole world," he said.

Martynov, director of the Russian Institute of World Economy and International Relations, said Yeltsin hopes the bilateral talks will go beyond the "prism of the territorial issue."

On the territorial dispute, Yeltsin wants discussions to start with Russia's willingness to cede two of the four islands to Japan, Martynov said.

He said a 1956 bilateral declaration stipulating the return to Japan of two of the islands—Shikotan and the Habomai islets—"has legal force" and must be the "starting point" in those discussions, along with the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty.

Martynov said Tokyo's recent flexibility on the dispute has improved public opinion toward Japan in Russia's Far East region. "Now about 50 percent of the population there think it possible to return the two smaller islands to Japan," he said.

In recent months, Japan has said it would be flexible on the timing and method of the islands' return if Moscow recognized Japan's sovereignty over all four, including the larger islands of Etorofu and Kunashiri.

The Soviet Red Army seized the islands at the end of World War II. Tokyo demands their return as a prerequisite for a peace treaty and full-scale financial assistance.

The Soviet Union agreed in the 1956 declaration to return the smaller two on completion of a peace treaty but Moscow rescinded that promise when Tokyo strengthened its security arrangement with the United States soon afterward.

Martynov said one-quarter of the people on the islands fear that they would receive the same treatment from Japan as Japanese on the islands received after 1945 when they were "mercilessly thrown off the islands by Stalin."

He urged Japan to support dual citizenship and strong social guarantees for island residents. Russia must take Japanese interests into account, "but Yeltsin should also support the legal interests of Russians," he said.

Martynov noted various domestic pressures on Yeltsin as he negotiates with Japan on the islands. "He has to maneuver and take into account interests of both right and left political forces as well as of all layers of the population," he said.

Solving the territorial dispute would consolidate Russia's borders and "strengthen the Russian position" in the world, he said.

If talks between the two countries on the issue become deadlocked, they could take the issue to the International Court of Justice in the Hague or to the United Nations, Martynov suggested.

Kurils Governor Reacts

LD1009063692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Valentin Fedorov, governor of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, said Boris Yeltsin's decision to postpone his visit to Japan was the right step. Answering journalists' questions today, Fedorov said that at the talks in Tokyo the territorial problem would inevitably have been raised and that it would be impossible to resolve in the current situation.

Throughout the last three months, Fedorov had posed the issue on various levels of postponing the dates of the visit until later.

I will remind you that academician Fedorov is one of the most consistent opponents in Russia of turning over the South Kurils to Japan.

No Changes to China Visit

LD1009052392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0522 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigory Arslanov and Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing September 10 TASS—There are no changes in the time of an official visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to China, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman told TASS on Thursday [10 September].

Yeltsin is to visit China in the middle of December.

Germany's Chancellor Kohl Plans December Visit

LD1009063192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0551 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Kevorkov]

[Text] Bonn September 10 TASS—Chancellor of Germany Helmut Khol will pay a visit to Russia in December this year at the invitation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the DPA news agency reported with reference to official sources.

Kozyrev Meets PLO Official on Peace Process

LD0909181792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by A. Peslyak; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Our diplomats are not forgetting their role in the Middle East settlement. Andrey Kozyrev has just met with Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, and expressed his optimism regarding a constructive approach to the sixth round of the Arab-Israeli talks, and the new positive attitude on the part of the Palestinians and other participants in the peace process.

The guest highly assessed the contribution of Russia to the achievement of peace in the Middle East.

On Friday [11 September] Kozyrev is scheduled to meet the Syrian foreign affairs minister.

Peres Letter for PLO Denied

MK0909113392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by V.A. under the "In Brief" rubric: "Foreign Ministry Denial"]

[Text] A Tunisian newspaper has reported that Minister Kozyrev intends to hand over a letter from Shim'on Peres to Mahmoud 'Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, who is arriving in Moscow on a visit. The Russian Foreign Ministry has stated that this letter does not exist. However, it is quite natural that the conversation with 'Abbas will develop within the broad context of a Near East settlement, and this includes taking into account the results of Peres's visit to Moscow.

Government Approves Culture Agreement With Israel

PM0909150792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Agreements, Decisions..."]

[Text] The draft agreement with Israel on cooperation in the sphere of culture and education is another document that was approved by the Russian Government the other day. Under it the sides will develop cooperation in various spheres of culture, the arts, education, science, youth news exchanges, and sport. Tourism and direct exchange ties will be encouraged to this end, and a Russian cultural center will open in Israel, with an Israeli cultural center opening in Russia. The sides will pledge to take measures to prevent the illegal import, export, or transfer of ownership rights of each side's cultural treasures.

Kozyrev Meets Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister

LD0409175792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 4 TASS—Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on 4 September held frank talks with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister M. Va'ezi, who arrived in Moscow on a short working visit.

The ministers discussed problems of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Nagorno-Karabakh in a spirit of mutual interest in inadmissibility of extremism and strengthening stability in the region.

It was agreed to continue the dialogue during the meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers in New York, in late September where they will be taking part in the UN General Assembly session.

Indian Defense Minister Continues Visit

PM0909151192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Report by Aleksandr Sychav: "India Hopes to Keep Russia as Chief Seller of Arms"]

[Text] Indian Defense Minister Sharad Pawar is in Russia on an official visit. The reports coming out of the Defense Ministry on the progress of the visit have so far been rather short on details. It is known that the Indian guest has had talks with Defense Minister P. Grachev.

They discussed the development of cooperation in the military sphere. Pawar was handed a draft agreement which, Grachev hopes, will have been prepared for signing in time for the Russian president's visit to India next January.

So, it is a question, above all, of military purchases in Russia. According to rough estimates, the former Soviet Union accounted for approximately 70 percent of the arms of the Indian Army, which naturally has an interest in regular deliveries of spare parts. G. Burbulis' proposal to set up joint ventures in the sphere of defense production, which he made during his recent trip to India, is also evidently being discussed during the Moscow talks.

There will also probably be a final decision on India's acquiring 26 MiG-29 fighter-bombers, on deliveries of T-72 tanks, armored personnel carriers, Tunguska missile systems, and helicopters with recent modifications, and also on the reequipping of the MiG-21 fighters which are still in the arsenal of the Indian Air Force. These projects are evidently concealed behind the "outlined and discussed areas" of cooperation on which P. Grachev reported, without going into details, during the first brief news conference.

It is necessary for Russia to maintain the two states' military cooperation at the level reached between the USSR and India in order to ease the position of many large enterprises in the military-industrial complex which have ended up on the verge of collapse.

Indian contracts will undoubtedly support them. Although the fears being expressed that the intensified pushing of Russian weapons onto the world market might make military industrialists lose their interest in conversion can hardly be called groundless.

On the other hand, the attitude of official Moscow to the fact that Russian weapons might be used in a military conflict in a region regarded as a "hot spot" of the planet is also of interest. Four times in recent decades India has found itself in a state of war with Pakistan and China.

The factor of U.S. pressure is obviously also of considerable importance, for it was manifested once before in the business of Russian cryogenic engines for the Indian space program. Then Washington was opposed to the contract and accused Russia of violating the rocket technology nonproliferation regime. Western observers report that during S. Pawar's present visit experts are to draw a conclusion on a Russian submarine which surpasses in terms of technical data those that are being built in Bombay's shipyards under a German license and which even has nuclear power plants.

And yet, before the river of military deliveries to India from Russia returns to its former channel, the two states have to resolve the financial aspect of this problem—India's arrears in respect of past military credits and the form of payment for new deliveries. To judge from some reports, the Indian minister would like to persuade his Russian partners not to combine these two problems in a single package but to examine them separately.

Such an approach may be of interest to Russian firms which need sales markets and incomes. At any rate, as a REUTERS correspondent reports from Delhi, in May Russia found it possible to extend the credit line to India to purchase military output to a value of $830 million. But the barter proposed by Delhi and rupees as the means of paying off the debt will hardly be of interest to Russian arms manufacturers. In order to ensure that they supply regular deliveries and to preserve positions on the Indian military market, the agreement which is being prepared must provide for a mechanism which satisfies all sides. This will play a positive role in regularizing the two countries' trade and economic relations.

Burbulis Assesses Meeting

LD0809214792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 8 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—"We have discussed the most essential issues of the Russian-Indian relations' development," State Secretary under the Russian President Gennadiy Burbulis told correspondents today upon the completion of his meeting with Indian Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, currently here on an official visit.

Burbulis said they took into account Boris Yeltsin will go to India in January, 1993, and it is necessary to boost bilateral economic relations.

Russia has inherited lots of obligations in the military sphere, including that on the delivery of spares and armaments. The visit is to reaffirm India remains Russia's priority state in the region, stressed Burbulis.

"The visit of Mister Pawar is going on rather constructively, problems remain but we find ways of their solution," he said, confirming "all essential documents" in the Russian-Indian relations sphere "will be prepared for January".

Asked by ITAR-TASS when the two states will manage to eliminate omissions in the mechanism of mutual payments in the export-import operations and coordinate the rouble exchange rate to the rupee, Burbulis stressed "several rounds of discussions have been held, in mid-September there will be another one.

"There are grounds to say we will overcome the current differences and there is the political will of the Indian leadership to settle the issue within a month or two. At least, before Yeltsin's visit to India this problem will find a mutually beneficial and mutually acceptable solution".

Shokhin Discusses Roundtable Talks With Poland

LD0709012792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 6 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad, September 6 TASS—"The Russian Government attaches a special importance to the Kaliningrad region as it is Russia's vanguard in Europe," Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin said on Sunday [6 September] at the opening of Russian-Polish "round table" discussions held in the Russian city of Kaliningrad (in the north-west of Russia).

"In this connection we believe the development of multilateral cooperation with Poland, which borders on Russia only in this Baltic region, has good prospects," he said.

"Interdependence of our economies is a reality which will exist in the future as well," Shokhin noted. "We take this factor into account while reaching long-term agreements with Poland. We are ready to supply oil and gas to Poland in the future in exchange for its export goods, expand cooperation in machine-building and provide Russian railway transport means for transit transportations of Polish cargoes. I think many obstcales on the way to a large-scale cooperation between our countries will be removed after the problem of mutual debts is resolved, the withdrawal of Russian troops is completed and housing problems of servicemen solved.

We also hope for the help of our neighbours in resolving the problems of providing the Kaliningrad region with energy and gas, in implementing the idea of establishing a free economic zone in the region, which will be of benefit to both sides."

According to the Russian vice-premier, an agreement on mutual protection of investments will be signed with Poland in the near future.

Polish Official on Cooperation Prospects

LD0609212692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1839 GMT 6 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad September 6 TASS—A favourable international situation offers a unique chance for developing and deepening multilateral relations between Poland and Russia, said Polish Vice Premier Henryk Goryszewsky, who is leading an official Polish delegation to the round table talks which opened in the city of Kaliningrad in the north west of Russia on Sunday [6 September].

The Polish leader said that Russia and Poland have a common border only in the Kaliningrad region, therefore a cooperation on a regional level acquires a special significance. All the more so, as the region will receive a status of a free economic zone, which will open prospects to the market initiatives of economic entities, he said.

However, many obstacles have to be removed to expand a mutually beneficial cooperation. We would receive with satisfaction reports on the reduction of the military presence in the Kaliningrad region, which is impeding many initiatives, on condition that Poland alongside with other countries takes part in providing housing for the withdrawn servicemen and their training in civilian specialities, Goryszewski noted.

It is also important to resolve the problems of border crossing and customs privileges, which are impeding trade exchange, he said.

An agreement should be signed on the protection of investments, and efforts should be made to coordinate and develop an effective transport infrastructure.

The state of the environment in the Russian-Polish border area is causing a great concern, and we should pool our efforts to protect it. If we resolve these problems, we could revive our cooperation in the field of trade and finances, and many other fields of economy, science, education and culture, the Polish official said.

UN's Butrus-Ghali Reviews Visit to Moscow

PM0809151992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 1

[Interview with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali by correspondent St. Kucher in Kuntsevo; date not given: "Talk With General Secretary at Stalin's Dacha. UN Secretary General Gives Interview to Our Correspondent at the State Residence in Kuntsevo"]

[Text] [Kucher] Mr. Butrus-Ghali, you have come to Moscow at the invitation of the Russian Government. Is this an ordinary working visit, or have you been trying to achieve some definite goal?

[Butrus-Ghali] My visit is an expression of gratitude to the Russian president and Russia's leaders. Boris Yeltsin initiated our first meeting in New York this January, a month after I became secretary general. He stated straightaway that Russia supports the new secretary general and his report "Agenda for Peace."

I consider it necessary to express the hope that Russia—a great country and a permanent member of the UN Security Council—will continue to play an irreplaceable role in international affairs, despite its numerous domestic problems. I do not wish to downplay them, but please remember—the world needs you. The reason is your geopolitical position. That was what I was primarily discussing with the president.

[Kucher] In your report to the Security Council 31 January you proposed reforming the UN peacekeeping forces and, in particular, "equipping them with heavier arms" in order to guarantee that conflicts would be quickly snuffed out. But is there not a danger that certain states, starting to exert greater influence on the United Nations, could use these forces to satisfy their own national interests?

[Butrus-Ghali] The United Nations cannot decide to use peacekeeping forces without the consent of all 15 Security Council members. It is not easy to reach such consensus. Because such important countries as France, Britain, China, India, Japan, and African and Latin American states currently work in the Security Council. Yes, many people believe that the United Nations could be dominated by a single country, but in actual fact this is not the case. My approach to decisionmaking when it comes to the use of peacekeeping forces is to get regional organizations to participate in resolving matters. In this event responsibility is, as it were, shared among the 15 states and all members of the world community. That was what happened at the London conference on Yugoslavia.

Holds News Conference

OW0809143092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 08 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, M. Chernukha, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has suggested a broad program of measures designed to heighten the role played by the UN in the efforts to settle the present conflicts and conflicts that might flare up in the future. According to what he said at his press conference in Moscow and in his press release published there, Butrus-Ghali calls for a full-scale participation of the General Assembly in giving support to mediatory efforts, negotiations and court-of-arbitration proceedings with a view to ensuring a more active peace-keeping role for the UN.

Butrus-Ghali urged all the countries to use the International Court of Justice for the purpose of settling their differences peacefully to a greater extent. He called for granting the UN the opportunity to organize mobilization of aid with a view to improving the situations that cause conflicts.

The UN Secretary General recommends to grant the UN Security Council the opportunity to exercise its powers for the purpose of using armed forces to restore international peace and security in the face of a threat to peace or an act of aggression.

According to him, this measure is extremely important in view of the need to uphold the UN's reputation as a guarantor of world security.

Since such forces can hardly be placed at the disposal of the UN in the near future, Butrus-Ghali calls for forming "units of inducement to peace" to be deployed when the task of maintaining ceasefire exceeds the limits of peacekeeping mandate. Such new units would be equipped with heavier weapons than the ordinary peace-keeping forces, and would have to undergo special training.

With reference to the peace-keeping operations proper the UN Secretary General requests UN member states to supply him with information regarding the kind and number of trained servicemen they will be prepared to place at the disposal of the UN as the need for carrying out such operations emerges.

Butrus-Ghali urges the General Assembly to take steps to expedite the financing of such new operations, and gives support to the call for funding such missions at the expense of military budgets of the member states, not at the expense of allocations for diplomatic expenditure.

Yeltsin Sends Message to Nonaligned Movement

LD0409162792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] ITAR-TASS reports that today Boris Yeltsin sent a telegram of greeting to the tenth conference of heads of state and government of the nonaligned countries taking place in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. In it he noted that the Nonaligned Movement has always made, and will continue to make, its own significant contribution to the solving of questions of concern to all humanity, such as disarmament, the guaranteeing of human rights observance, and the strengthening of the foundations of democracy.

Khasbulatov Briefs Strauss on Parliament Agenda

LD0909212692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by M. Lillevyali; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Robert Strauss, U.S. ambassador to Russia, has referred to Russian-American relations as good and

dynamically developing. Today he met Ruslan Khasbulatov. The speaker of the Russian parliament told the guest about the preparations for the forthcoming session and assured him that almost all the deputies are in favor of continuing the reforms. The main subject of the session will be human rights, and work will be continued on the draft constitution. It is also proposed that a number of draft laws on the activity of the army and state security should be discussed. Besides that, a law is being drawn up which will allow foreign investors to invest in Russia's banking system.

As far as the ratification of the Russian-American treaty on reductions in strategic offensive weapons is concerned, in the opinion of Ruslan Imranovich, big problems are not envisaged in this connection.

Grachev Meets With French Ambassador

PM0909142792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Ambassador Received"]

[Text] General P. Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, yesterday received Mr. Pierre Morel, French ambassador to the Russian Federation, at the latter's request. A conversation on questions of mutual interest took place.

Moscow, ROK Sign Accord To Prevent Sea Incidents

LD0909200892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1805 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul September 9 TASS—Russia and South Korea began work on a bilateral agreement on the prevention of incidents at sea beyond their territorial waters and airspace.

Two-day talks on the problem, held during the visit to South Korea of First Deputy Chief of CIS Naval Headquarters Vladimir Lyashenko, ended in Seoul on Wednesday [9 September].

An agreement, proposed by Russia, will be the first such agreement signed by South Korea. Lyashenko told ITAR-TASS that a draft of the agreement was presented to South Korea in August, 1992.

The draft was studied in Seoul and during the talks, the South Korean delegation expressed the understanding of the problem and its readiness to continue contacts.

"In this respect we can say that the negotiations have begun successfully," the vice admiral said. He said that the next round of the talks would take place no earlier than in a month time, and if the talks are a success, there are hopes that the agreement will be signed this year.

The agreement, in essence, provides for establishing measures of confidence between the two states, providing for safety at sea, in air and in zones beyond the jurisdiction of the states concerned.

In the long run, the agreement is called upon to promote strengthening of bilateral relations between our countries, Lyashenko pointed out.

Churkin on Relations With Baltic States

MK0909082792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 4

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, deputy foreign minister, by Mikhail Shchipanov; place, date not given: "This Is Not Our Land, but It Is a Land Very Close to Us"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The Russian-Lithuanian summit, from which both Moscow and Vilnius are expecting fundamental "breakthroughs," is to be held today. In this connection, Vitaliy Churkin, Russian deputy foreign minister, whose sphere is the whole of Europe from the Atlantic to Brest, including the Baltic countries, reminds our readers in a reasonable way that the Baltic states are not our land, but nevertheless a land that is very close to us.

[Shchipanov] And so, Boris Yeltsin is receiving his colleague Vytautas Landsbergis, who cannot wait to wave goodbye to the Russian Army. In this connection it is being maintained in political circles that Moscow is prepared to promise Vilnius that it will withdraw its forces from Lithuania by the end of 1993. Is this the case?

[Churkin] Right now, I would not like to anticipate the natural course of events by naming specific dates. But during the summer a careful analysis was made of this difficult problem, and our attitudes in the given sphere have changed significantly. Earlier, as you will remember, the last soldier from the Baltic states was expected home by 1997 or even 1999. Clearly, it is not so easy now for Russia to receive and provide facilities for the large army stationed in the Baltic countries. According to some assessments, this military repatriation may cost us almost $7 billion. Nevertheless, fairly stubborn negotiations with the Lithuanian representatives have made it possible to draw nearer to the elaboration of a compromise agreement stipulating really new deadlines for the withdrawal of our forces which suit Vilnius entirely.

However, I would stipulate straight away that the withdrawal schedule agreed with Lithuania canot be automatically extended to the troop formations billeted in Latvia and Estonia. Furthermore, talks with these countries are being complicated by a number of specific problems—or rather specific military installations which Russia cannot give up so easily. In particular, a unique center for training submarine crews has been established in Estonia. There is quite simply no other center like it in Russia, and therefore we have the right to hope that

Tallinn will not see this center as a real threat to its young democracy and will give the go-ahead for its functioning even after the troops have been withdrawn. There are also two or three installations of this type on the territory of Latvia.

So it would be an oversimplification to talk about the possibility of extending to Latvia and Estonia the principles elaborated at the talks with Lithuania. Furthermore, we have always had an understanding attitude toward our Baltic partners' concerns, and we hope that our problems, which are by no means imaginary, will also be taken seriously in Vilnius, Riga, and Tallinn.

[Shchipanov] The Foreign Ministry's stance on this issue is clear. But to what extent does your department control Russia's "Baltic" policy? Is the Foreign Ministry not irritated by powerful competitors?

[Churkin] It is like this: State delegations headed by ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary have officially been entrusted with holding talks with the Baltic countries. Naturally, in our complex times certain departments try to display a certain degree of autonomy with respect to the Baltic question, which in principle does not increase the effectiveness of Russian policy in the region.

Admittedly, it sometimes happens that such activeness is dictated by the desire to achieve an end. For instance, the Russian Ministry of Defense displayed its own initiative at the talks with Lithuania. At the end of the drafting of the agreements with Lithuania that are to be signed by Yeltsin and Landsbergis, the diplomats cooperated actively with the military, reaching formulas that are realistic and entirely met our strategic interests.

[Shchipanov] But does it not seem to you that the talks with the Balts are also proving difficult because, as far as they are concerned, the problem of the withdrawal of the Russian troops is akin to having their own "nuclear bomb," that is, a problem that gives them an advantage in European politics....

[Churkin] We are guided by the rule that you cannot question or doubt your partners' reasoning. It is another matter that we cannot help being worried by their excessively polemical attitude and emotional behavior, which does not really befit serious diplomacy. Sometimes it feels strange to read in response to a carefully elaborated proposal that has been submitted...a note couched in the old lexical traditions of the cold war. Our partners have evidently not yet really gotten used to the idea that the Union no longer exists and that Moscow is the capital of a democratic state, not an empire.

[Shchipanov] And so, the Foreign Ministry really has to coordinate its efforts with departments in which a strong "Union" inertia still exists. Might it not happen that the hours that diplomats have spent at the negotiating table will suddenly be overshadowed by a purely forcible decision—turning off the gas supply to Lithuania for example?

[Churkin] In our times you cannot completely rule anything out. It is important that forcible actions should not be the "final argument" at the talks. After all, quite recently, in response to interruptions in the gas supply, Lithuania was about to put pressure on Kaliningrad Oblast. We analyzed this unpleasant incident and made it clear to our Baltic partners that it is is absolutely impermissible to use the language of threats against Russia. Since the Balts are insisting that Russia must eliminate even the hint of a possibility of economic blackmail, it would be doubly strange if Moscow were to allow itself to be addressed in this way. Of course, the incident is over, but it was an alarm signal nevertheless.

[Shchipanov] Sometimes it seems to me that our diplomacy uses the term "the Baltic countries" without seeing that it relates to three autonomous states that by no means act as one.

[Churkin] I agree. There were times when we did not react sufficiently sensitively to nuances, or else differences, in the Baltic countries' policies. This has been particularly noticeable in delicate spheres such as human rights. It must be said that Lithuanian legislation corresponds far more to that of the CSCE countries. Policy is always specific. Our complaints would primarily be directed at Latvia and Estonia.

You may remember that about six weeks ago, at Ye. Gaydar's meeting with his Latvian colleague, an agreement was reached on the creation of a special Russian-Latvian bilateral commission to examine questions relating to the position of what is known as the Russian-speaking population. Our group, comprising two Foreign Ministry employees and an independent expert from a rights protection organization, did in fact visit Latvia. The trip and the meetings with officials and representatives of the non-Latvian population enabled us to develop a fairer opinion of the jumble of problems that has arisen.

The situation with Estonia is more difficult. Despite certain CSCE decisions, Tallinn has refused to invite a corresponding expert mission which could study the human rights situation on the spot. We now have no choice but to impose on Estonia a visit by such a commission. To impose it, naturally, within the framework of the democratic procedure adopted by the CSCE. In order to do this we must enlist the support of at least five CSCE member countries. Preliminary consultations have shown that Russia can count on understanding from a far greater number of states.

For the time being, and I would like to stress this again, we cannot help being worried by the consequences of the approaching elections in Estonia, as a result of which an ethnic parliament will be elected. Forty percent of the active population will be marginalized, as it were, in terms of the republic's political life. The consequences of such an "experiment" may impact on the status of Russian-Estonian relations. And we would not like this to happen.

It would be wrong to think that the Foreign Ministry has only been a passive observer of the processes developing in Estonia. However, none of our demarches has had any effect on the Estonian leadership's position, although in the supercharged atmosphere of an election campaign it was difficult to count on the Estonian Government's deciding to introduce changes into local legislation.

Not everything is unclouded in our relations with Latvia, either. Surprisingly, a kind of "Brezhnevian" tone can be detected in the statements of certain Latvian representatives. Complaints concerning the human rights situation are sometimes answered by a confident: "Everything is in order here. There is no question of any violations."

That is why, when we encounter Estonian and Latvian inflexibility, we increasingly frequently appeal to third parties, bringing to their attention the Russian position concerning the observance of human rights in the Baltic countries. And it must be said that such contacts do bear fruit. Increasingly frequently the Balts are having to hear "the bitter truth" from representatives of the traditional European democracies, which can hardly be suspected of secret imperial intrigues. In any case, Europe now no longer associates the Baltic countries' problems solely with the issue of the withdrawal of our troops.

Gaydar Hails Trade Agreement With Estonia

OW0809005492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 7 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and Estonia's Premier Tiit Vahi convened for a meeting in Moscow at 12:00 on Monday [7 September]. According to Baltfax [as received], they are discussing trade and economic ties between the two countries. The two sides intend to instruct their corresponding departments to ensure in the second half of this year the accomplishment of commodity exchanges under bilateral agreements not only on the government level, but also on the level of individual enterprises.

The meeting began with a confidential conversation between the heads of Russian and Estonian governments which took 5 minutes. Subsequently Ye. Gaydar reminded those present that two agreements had been drafted: on opening Russian and Estonian trade missions and on free trade. According to Ye. Gaydar, the drafting of 1st agreement had already been concluded. As for the 2nd agreement, the protocol on "mutual confiscations" had to be coordinated yet. Since there are no "ideological disputes" concerning the protocol, he pointed out, in the process of his confidential conversation with Tiit Vahi they agreed to set up a working group consisting of Russian and Estonian officials to conclude the document in question during the present talks.

According to Ye. Gaydar, two categories of deliveries should be singled out in the document: supplies required by the Russian army for the time of its temporary presence in Estonia, and deliveries relating to the "normal trade with Estonia".

"I believe that we shall be able to sign both agreements before this evening", Yegor Gaydar stressed.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The meeting was initially planned for September 2, but it was postponed at Russia's request in connection with Ye. Gaydar's "being extremely busy", as Russian officials explained.

Russia and Estonia have today signed a free trade agreement in the Kremlin.

Gaydar told an IF journalist that the agreement would guarantee each side access to the other's market, "a radical reduction in the number of goods liable for import and export duty between the two countries" and of items which can be limited in number on import and export (a list of these goods has also been finalised). The document also contains a clause on the prevention of re-export.

IF Note: Experts estimated that before this treaty was signed, Estonia was able to become one of the leading exporters of non-ferrous metals thanks to Russia's supplies.

Gaydar said that the agreement was of great importance for maintaining links between Estonia and Russia. He said that in addition to the supplies of different goods discussed at the meeting, matters relating to collaboration in customs proceedures in order to stop the uncontrollable flood of primary raw materials and non-ferrous metals through Estonian territory were also discussed.

In addition, a whole range of political questions concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonian territory, the status of these troops during the withdrawal, and citizenship was discussed. Here, an agreement was reached on sending an international commission to Estonia to see that humamn rights in the republic were being observed. Gaydar described the talks as constructive.

"I would not say that I am completely happy with the development of relations between our countries", the acting vice-premier stressed after emphasising that "very serious problems exist at the present moment in time". The priority is establishing the rights of the non-indigenous population of Estonia. "We, of course, are unable to take an impartial stance in this matter", said Gaydar.

Estonian Official 'Content' With Russian Talks

OW0909182392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1738 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The delegations had another plenary session at the sixth round of the Russian-Estonian state talks which

began Wednesday [9 September] in Nakhabino, a town in the suburbs of Moscow. The parties have approved the agenda of this round, and the work was resumed in four basic groups.

The counsellor at the Estonian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], Ago Tiiman, said in an interview for Baltfax that this round of talks is expected to address more issues than the preceding rounds, including the problems of legal and humanitarian nature. In the words of Mr. Tiiman, the delegations have been specially "reinforced" with specialists.

Mr. Tiiman said that during this round, the parties will prepare for initialling the texts of agreements on their mutual liabilities in regards to pensioners, acknowledgment of higher education certificates, as well as an "agreement on illegal persons".

The essence of the latter lies in exchanging information about the persons who have illegally entered one country from the other, as well as about the citizens of one country who are permanently working or residing in the other. In the words of Ago Tiiman, he is content with the progress of the talks, while any tangible results could only be commented on tomorrow - on the last day of the talks.

Shokhin, Lithuanian Counterpart on Economic Ties

LD0709193492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 7 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad September 7 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and his Lithuanian counterpart Voldemaras Lubis discussed economic cooperation between Russia and Lithuania during their brief meeting today in Kaliningrad. The talks, in particular, centred on the fulfillment of mutual commitments regarding supplies of Russian oil and gas in exchange for food products and goods within the 1992 state treaty framework. A provisional accord about the possible volume of such supplies for the year 1993 was achieved. The question of mutual payments was also discussed at the meeting. The Lithuanian vice-premier told ITAR-TASS that he is fully satisfied with the outcome of the talks with his Russian partners.

Kozyrev on Caucasus 'Strategic Significance'

PM0809155292 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Andrey Kozyrev: 'The Caucasus Region Has Strategic Significance for Russia'"]

[Text] "The Caucasus region is a traditional sphere of Russian interests, and we do not intend to abandon it," the Russian Federation Foreign Minister stated in an interview with a RIA correspondent. "We will uphold and strengthen our influence in that region, not by strong-arm, imperial methods, but through the peacemaking efforts of a great democratic power."

He reported that a mechanism for separating the conflicting parties and keeping the peace in Abkhazia is currently being worked out. "Accords will not work without such a mechanism," the minister noted. He said that one of the most important tasks is also to "create the preconditions for a future legal regulation of the status of Abkhazia."

Belarus To Collaborate on Foreign Intelligence

MK0809130392 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 5 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report under "News Flash" rubric: "Russia and Belarus Will Spy Together"]

[Text] A bilateral agreement on cooperation between the Belarusian State Security Committee Eduard Shirkovskiy and the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov was signed in Minsk Thursday [3 September]. Henceforth, the secret services intend to coordinate their intelligence activities.

This is the second such agreement for Russia (the first was concluded with Kazakhstan), and for the purposes of coordinating intelligence activities a special department has been created in the Russian Federation's Foreign Intelligence Service. In line with the agreement concluded, intelligence officers (or, more precisely, future intelligence officers) of the Republic of Belarus will be able to train in the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service's Red Banner Institute, and then even work alongside Russian intelligence officers. Only if, naturally, the interests of our states coincide, which will most probably be in the extraction of some or other technological secrets—that is, in the sphere of industrial espionage.

Intelligence Runs International Treaty Compliance

OW0909140592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1226 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The main activity of the Russian intelligence service is the control over compliance with international agreements with other states. These are the priorities pointed out by the Chairman of the Committee on Defense and Security of the Russian Supreme Soviet Sergey Stepashin at the presentation of a decree on "Intelligence Service" adopted by the Russian Parliament in July, 1992 at a press conference on Wednesday [9 September].

He stressed that according to the decree the intelligence service is prohibited to conduct terroristic acts and the parliament is charged with control over its activity. An inter-parliamentary commission on intelligence service is working now, the results of its work will be submitted at a closed session of the Supreme Soviet in October.

It was admitted at the press conference that "on the whole" the Russian Foreign Ministry is not against that the employees of the intelligence service work "under its cover".

The first deputy director of the intelligence service Vyacheslav Trubnikov reported that the intelligence service has signed bilateral agreements practically with all the republics of the former USSR which joined the Alma-Ata treaties, these agreements ban any intelligence activity against each other. To this effect he said that Ukraine did not sign the Alma-Ata treaties.

Answering a question put by an "IF" [INTERFAX] correspondent, Trubnikov said that the Russian intelligence officers registered 7 cases of high treason, three of them—during the first half of the year. These are cases of disclosing the staff personnel but the most significant damage experienced the staff personnel of the scientific-technical intelligence.

Gorbachev 'Exploring' U.S. Ambassador Position

OW0609165092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 6 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev "is exploring possibilities for his appointment the Russian ambassador to the United States," Aleksey Mitrofanov, the foreign minister in the "shadow cabinet" of the Liberal Democratic Party led by Vladimir Zhirinovsky, said at a meeting with journalists. The information, Mitrofanov claimed, came from trustworthy sources.

According to Mitrofanov, the Russian leadership has a difficult choice to make for Gorbachev's appointing as ambassador would strengthen its influence in the USA owing to his contacts in that country but might cause an outburst of public discontent at the ex-President's "escape abroad." We have so far been unable to verify this information.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Orders Troops to Border With Azerbaijan

LD0909132592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] At orders of the president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, units of the internal forces have been stationed in the Republic of Dagestan in the northern Caucasus. Dagestan is part of the federation.

A statement circulated by Russia's Ministry of the Interior says that the introduction of the units is not connected with restricting the rights and freedoms of civilians or with interference in the political life of Dagestan. The troops should close the border between Dagestan and neighboring Azerbaijan, which is in a state of war with Armenia. Azerbaijan has settled over 100,000 refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh in the border zone and they seriously destabilize the situation in the region.

Ministry Asks Azerbaijan Forgiveness of Officer

LD0909205192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry and the committee for matters of servicemen and their families at the Russian Federation Government have addressed a request to Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey and other top-level representatives of the republic's leadership that the life of Lieutenant Yevgeniy Lukin, a Russian officer, sentenced to be shot by the Military Collegium of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, be preserved. Valentin Stepankov, procurator general of the Russian Federation, informed Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov of this matter and petitioned for help.

Defense Minister Implements Military Decrees

PM0909104992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Sep 92 p 1

[Report from the Defense Ministry Press Center: "Minister Has Issued Orders"]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev has issued a number of orders enacting the corresponding decrees by the president and Russian Government resolutions.

Order No. 123 of 24 August 1992 introduces privileges for travel by servicemen, people discharged from active service, and members of their families and the carriage of their property.

Under Order No. 120 of 23 August 1992 wages and salaries for the civilian personnel of budget-funded military directorate organs, military units, establishments, military educational institutions, and enterprises and organizations of the Russian Defense Ministry will be increased by 50 percent as of 1 October this year.

Order No. 121 of 19 August 1992 changes the procedure for paying students at Suvorov and Nakhimov military schools, students of military band schools, and NCO and officer cadets of military-educational institutions who are orphans or have been left without parental care. Their monthly salaries are now as follows: In higher-military educational institutions—720 rubles [R] (for officer cadets) and R580 (for NCO cadets); in secondary schools—R500, and in Suvorov and Nakhimov military schools—R500. Annual and one-time grants are also envisaged.

Political Issues

Sobchak To Challenge Yeltsin for Presidency

PM1009095692 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 8 Sep 92 p 13

[Interview with St Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by Elo Foti in Cernobbio, Italy; date not given]

[Excerpts] Cernobbio—The mayor of St Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), Anatoliy Sobchak, will stand as a candidate for the Russian presidency. He will challenge Boris Yeltsin in the next presidential election. He said this in an interview granted to IL GIORNALE in Cernobbio, where he is attending the prestigious economic and political conference organized every year at the Villa d'Este by the Ambrosetti group. Sobchak, perhaps Russia's most popular politician, together with President Yeltsin, nevertheless made it clear that at the moment his relations with the present chief of state are excellent. "Boris and I meet often, partly because," he explained, "I am a member of the Presidential Council." Nevertheless, after stating that it is too early to talk about elections, he said that he aims to stand as a candidate for Russia's most senior post: "Yes, that is my intention," he told us. [passage omitted containing commentary by Foti]

[Foti] The former president of the USSR recently held a reception at the headquarters of the foundation that bears his name. It looked like a return to the political scene for the father of perestroyka. Do you think Gorbachev still has a political future?

[Sobchak] No. Gorbachev has no hope of returning to the political fray. Not only is he extremely unpopular and therefore cannot count on a following of potential voters, but he is entirely isolated. That means he does not have even an embryonic party behind him. It is mistaken to believe that he still has any cards to play. Gorbachev did have some very great merits, but now he is alone and without a political future.

[Foti] [FIAT President] Agnelli said right here in Cernobbio that the coming winter will be particularly tough for the Russians. Are you not afraid of a people's rising, another coup?

[Sobchak] Yes, that is true. We can expect a very difficult winter. This is due to various reasons, the first of which is the lack of an agrarian reform. We would like to be working by now with the new system based on a free market economy; instead we have to still struggle with a structure based on the old kolkhozes. Be that as it may, I rule out the threat of another attempted coup, though I must admit that the threat of the explosion of social tensions does exist, and it is great.

[Foti] Is there a plan to boost the Russian economy?

[Sobchak] Yes, it is a plan that envisages a transition from the centralized, nationalized economy to a market economy. In the past we usually had five-year or seven-year plans, which failed to achieve the set objectives, however. Now we have shelved this method, and we are aiming at plans to develop individual sectors.

[Foti] What is the status of your plan to turn St. Petersburg into a free-trade area?

[Sobchak] It is at an advanced stage. The government has already approved a number of decrees that enable us to work toward this goal. For instance, we have received authorization for joint ventures involving 100 percent foreign capital. This applies to banks, too. One important innovation is that of granting entry visas at the airport, without having to use the procedure of applications at embassies. And we are building a free transit area for goods at our city airport.

[Foti] There is talk in the West of growing unemployment in Russia and of a possible large-scale exodus to the West. How true is this?

[Sobchak] It is idle talk. The bugbear of this invasion has been brandished for the past two years, but the feared invasion has not materialized. The fact is that there are more jobs than workers in our country. The only sector in which there will be a tide of unemployment before too long is the defense industry. But it is already envisaged that this labor force will move into two areas in which great expansion is forecast—construction and agriculture.

[Foti] Does Russia's future lie in the East or in the West?

[Sobchak] Russia's future lies in Russia, which will constitute a bridge between East and West.

[Foti] What is the nature of your contacts with the EC?

[Sobchak] Insufficient. I would attribute this lack to the fact that previously the "European bank" model has not taken account of Russia, the other republics of the former USSR, and the countries of Eastern Europe. Once the Maastricht stumbling block has been overcome, it will be necessary to think seriously about integration between Western and Eastern Europe, with special reference to Russia.

[Foti] If the Democrat, Clinton, wins the U.S. elections, would U.S.-Russian relations improve or deteriorate?

[Sobchak] Our relations with Bush are excellent; nevertheless, I think that if Clinton wins, relations between Washington and Moscow could receive a boost. At this time of change, new men with new ideas are needed.

[Foti] One last question: Why did you attend the funeral of Grand Duke Vladimir, the pretender to the throne of the tsars?

[Sobchak] I did not attend, but I wanted that ceremony, that funeral, to take place in St. Petersburg, and I organized it. Do you know why? First, because I want to show that it is possible now to do what was unthinkable even just a few years ago, and also to pay amends to some extent and to pay proper tribute to a royal family that was massacred and that did represent us, for better or for worse. Yes, of course there were injustices under the tsars, but it was also unjust to assassinate Nicholas II and his children without a proper trial. The latter were entirely innocent. The execution of the Romanovs was not a revolutionary act, but an act of terrorism.

Yeltsin Reorganizes Information Bureau

LD0909183592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—Following an edict by Russian President Boris Yeltsin the Bureau for Information Support of the President's Administration has been transformed into a Department of Information Resources.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Department Head Vasiliy Kupriyanovskiy said that the move was not just a change of the sign, but a new stage in the development of information space of executive authorities.

A structure responsible for computer technologies, open communications and electronic copying and facsimile technology has existed in the republic's government for several years. After the introduction of an executive-style presidency in Russia, the bureau catered to the president's administration and government, and beginning from this year—to the Constitutional Court as well.

The number of personal computers has increased since 1990 from 60 to more than 2,000. And a system of data banks offers a realistic chance to move from constructing technologies to managing information resources, Kupriyanovskiy said.

In the middle of August the president issued an instruction about information services to his representatives in regions. He set a tough deadline: All work should be done by September 30. Thus, from a central structure, the Department of Information Resources would be changed into a republican service.

Speaking generally, the question involves creating a single information space for the executive power in Russia and new conditions for decision-making. The

Department of Information Resources does not claim monopoly in the sphere of data banks. The Russian executive power will be able to use data banks belonging to ITAR-TASS, REUTERS and other news agencies.

In the future, similar arrangements will be made for heads of administrations of Russian territories, ministries and departments.

Officials Explain New Foreign Intelligence Law

LD0909140192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A special Law on Foreign Intelligence regulating the activities of that organization has been adopted for the first time in Russia. It was signed by President Boris Yeltsin and has now come into effect.

[Begin recording] [V. Kantorov, head of the legal department of the Foreign Intelligence Service] Both in the former KGB and in its former Main Directorate there were many internal normative acts that regulated practically all aspects of life. Now we are bringing all these normative acts into line with the law.

[Correspondent A. Lutskoy] Speaking at the meeting with journalists, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, first deputy director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, emphasized:

[Trubnikov] This reflects the Law of Public Service [zakon poslushnosti] by this organization, in whose leadership I work.

[Lutskoy] Incidentally, Trubnikov informed those present that in the past 18 months, 10 employees of the Foreign Intelligence Service have gone over to the West, having betrayed the motherland, and that whereas formerly it had been fairly difficult to bring them to book, now:

[Trubnikov] On the basis of this law we will certainly determine more clearly our position with regard to traitors and turncoats. This law makes it possible for us to start legal proceedings. [end recording]

People's Party Charges Corruption in Ministry

OW0909175492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent A. Borodin and others; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Free Russia People's Party (FRPP) which is better known as "the party of Rutskoy" (Russia's vice-president is its honorary chairman: DP [Diplomatic Panorama]) published on Wednesday [9 September] an open letter of its leader Vasiliy Lipitskiy addressed to Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The letter actually accuses members of the Ministry's consular department of corruption and extortion.

The letter maintains that the leaders of the consular service of Russia's diplomatic establishment protracted, without explaining why, the process of issuing documents for an unnamed representative or leader of the party who intended to go to Berlin to attend a routine congress of the Socialist International. Following this, Foreign Ministry officials suggested that representatives of the party should apply to the cooperative "ICS" [Information and Consular Service cooperative] which is in a position, for a corresponding amount of money, of course, "to overcome all formalities and issue the necessary documents in a matter of hours". The relevant fax message received by DP presents a copy of the note asking the head of the cooperative Omar Kerechashvili for aid which was given to the FRPP representative by a member of the ministry's consular service. According to the author of the letter, the cooperative's staff consists largely of the Ministry's consular service members.

Having qualified these facts as "organized extortion" and "legalized corruption", the FRPP expressed the wish to learn about the results of an official investigation which, in its view, Foreign Minister Kozyrev should conduct in his establishment.

DP's correspondent asked the Foreign Ministry to explain what happened. Consular service member Nikolay Lubchenko told him that institutions which are not registered at the consular service and which have no "Department No. 1" (a department at government enterprises and offices whose duty is to coordinate their employees' trips abroad with Russia's Security Ministry) are rendered services through intermediaries on commercial basis.

N. Lubchenko said: "The Information and Consular Service cooperative (ICS) works under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry. Its director general is Omar Kerechashvili, and it charges for its services corresponding amounts of money".

According to the official, public organizations, parties and commercial ventures which have no "Department No. 1" should have their exit and entry visas issued through intermediaries whose services have to be paid for. Therefore this has nothing to do with extortion, N. Lubchenko pointed out.

Besides, one has to take into account certain requirements of foreign embassies, such as the need to submit documents at the required time, he said.

Another highranking Foreign Ministry member conceded in an unofficial conversation that this situation is obviously not normal. According to him, the performance of the consular service is affected by the absence of clearly formulated legislation on issuing exit and entry visas, by the inevitable technical problems which emerged as a result of a sharp increase in the number of

those who wish to travel abroad, and by the low wages of members of the Foreign Ministry's consular services, of course.

Commission To Reorganize Managerial Structures

OW0909212892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has set up a governmental commission for reorganizing the managerial structures of the higher executive bodies. The commission is led by First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Initially, the commission was led by Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin. However, following Shumeyko's appointment to the post of first vice-premier this post was given to him. According to IF sources Shumeyko has drafted a package of proposals on the reorganization of the Cabinet.

Shumeyko told IF correspondent Vitaliy Dzhibutiy that according to his plan the executive bodies will be of three levels: the upper level—ministries and state committees whose leaders will be members of the government; the medium level—various committees whose heads will perform coordinating functions and will not be members of the Cabinet, and the lower level federal agencies and services.

Shumeyko believes that such a structure suits market economy best. He believes that changes in the property status of industrial enterprises will inevitably bring about changes in the government bodies which will perform coordinating, not administrative functions.

Shumeyko said that his commission is very busy because previously administrative bodies were calculated for "specific situations and even people". Now they will be simplified, while redundant administrative bodies will be eliminated.

A number of ministries and departments should be done away with, said Shumeyko. Corresponding decisions will be taken collectively in the presence of the acting premier. Subsequently, the documents will be passed to the Russian parliament for final scrutiny.

Bocharov Heads News International Russian Club

MK0709131992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Irina Shkarnikova under the "Facts, Events, People" rubric: "Yet Another International Russian Club Is Created"]

[Text] Side by side with Sergey Stankevich's existing International Russian [rossiyskiy] Club, yet another was created recently with a similar name—International Russian [russkiy] Club—of which Russian Deputy Mikhail Bocharov was elected president, with Oleg Rumyantsev as one of the vice presidents.

The first club sets itself the aim of defending the national interests of the Russian diaspora in nearby foreign parts and of encouraging our emigres to participate in implementing Russian reforms, while the second, not being a political party, intends "to influence the adoption of political decisions, defending the priority of the vital national-state interests of the Russian Federation."

The official presentation of the International Russian [russkiy] Club is scheduled for 30 September.

Communist Parties Form Umbrella Organization

PM0909102592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Left-Wingers Unite"]

[Text] Parties and movements of a communist and socialist orientation are uniting within the framework of the Russian Political Consultative and Coordination Council of the Communists of Russia [Roskomsovet]. A session of its working group has been held. Participating were representatives of the "Communists of Russia" deputies' faction, the Russian Party of Communists, the Russian Communist Workers Party, the Socialist Party of Working People, the Union of Communists, the Workers Party, and the public association "In Defense of the Rights of Communists."

It was decided to hold a plenary session of the Roskomsovet on 3 October. Parties and associations of a communist and socialist orientation that have been registered with justice organs and that operate in the Russian Federation have been instructed to send one authorized representative each to participate in the Roskomsovet's work. Contact telephone numbers are: 205-56-24, 203-57-52.

Economic Issues

Government Sets Energy Policy, Gas Price Curbs

LD1009102292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—The Russian Government, meeting under Boris Yeltsin's chairmanship in the Kremlin today, has approved on the whole the concept of Russia's energy policy in the new economic conditions.

As stated by Vice-Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, who submitted the document for the government's consideration, the new energy policy has the purpose of forming

and guaranteeing society's reasonable economic requirements and ensuring the rational utilisation of natural resources.

Chernomyrdin said that the creation of a controlled state energy market, linked with world prices for energy carriers, was the main principle on which the new policy of the fuel and power complex was based.

However, he believes that the cost of gas should remain under state control, while prices for oil, oil products and coal "must be partially set free, not right away, of course, so that they could reach the world level in the course of 1993".

Session Views Privatization, Prices

LD1009111192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Government is today discussing the problems of the fuel industry. This includes discussion of removing the restrictions on the oil price, currently at around 2,000 rubles.

Russia has an energy base capable of supplying the country's national economy for the foreseeable future. However, in the mid-1980's a slump began. The amount recovered fell. The current program envisages the phased development of the energy industry to the year 2000. It also envisages the creation of a legislative basis for implementing structural changes.

The session discussed the possibility of privatizing a number of installations in the energy industry and the setting up of joint-stock societies, including those involving foreign capital. It is thought that cooperation with Western partners will be achieved within the framework of the European Energy Charter. As far as pricing policy is concerned, it was said at the session that prices for gas and electricity would remain regulated. However, it is proposed to free prices for oil and coal. The coal price is to be increased on average by 30 percent. As for oil, experts think that the price will be restricted to a 50 percent profit margin should the cost of one tonne of crude exceed 4,000 rubles.

Yeltsin Supports Cabinet Session on Privatization

OW0909220192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The INTERFAX correspondent has established that on the eve of mass privatization campaign in Russia which will begin October 1, there is a growing conflict in the Russian Government between the supporters of different privatization concepts. The sides have elected President Yeltsin as their arbiter, and addressed him with their letters.

The vice premier, chairman of the GOSCOMIMUSHCHESTVO State Property Committee of the Russian Federation Anatoliy Chubays, has forwarded a report to the president in which he accuses the RF [Russian Federation] deputy corps and Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin of obstructing and retarding the rate of privatization.

The minister of industry, in his turn, too, sent a letter to the president. "The policy of setting joint-stock companies and privatizing industrial enterprises is wrong in principle," he avers. Mr Titkin is convinced that such a course, "regardless of the goals it has outlined, is objectively leading to the destablization of the industrial production".

It is bound to impair the existing internal production and technological relations and "atomize" industry as a whole, he says in his letter. In his opinion, this policy is "aimed at disabling all the branch ministries, first and foremost, the Russian Ministry of Industry to exercise control over the process of industrial reconstruction, transforming this process to a spontaneous unmanageable collectivization".

In the words of Mr Titkin, the GOSCOMIMUSHCHESTVO is "even pursuing the policy of detaching several ministries and their top figures from controlling the operation of the enterprises which will remain fully or partially owned by state, in spite of the fact that such management—not only by economic but also by directive methods—have long been practiced in the countries will developed market economy".

The minister is convinced that "GOSCOMIMUSHCHESTVO is regarding privatization as a self serving process, and its realization more and more disagrees with the context of the country's general economic transformations".

"In realizing that the policy pursued by GOSCOMIMUSHCHESTVO is not received with adequate understanding among the branch ministries, it is trying to form it individually, while the results of this policy will affect everyone," Mr Titkin writes. He is proposing to hold a special session regarding the issues of privatization with the participation of the Russian president. Also attached to Mr Titkin's letter is a draft of the presidential decree re peculiarities of tranforming state enterprises into joint-stock companies, voluntary amalgamations of state enterprises owned by the Federation which clearly formulates the ministry's alternative proposals regarding the privatization.

According to the information available at INTERFAX, President Yeltsin responded to the letter with a resolution supportive of the proposal to hold a cabinet session on the privatization issues. In a message to the RF acting

premier, Yegor Gaydar, the president advises him to hold this session prior to the actual beginning of privatization campaign.

Industry Minister Submits Denationalization Plan

OW1009120192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a letter to President Yeltsin the Russian Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin has sharply criticized the policy of denationalization pursued by the State Committee for Property. He also suggested his own privatization program.

The minister proposed a two stage mechanism of denationalizing big businesses. At the first stage a special company should be formed which should get the bulk of the shares of all the enterprises belonging to it. This would help to develop a common mechanism of managing a voluntarily formed association of industries.

At the second stage big technological corporations should appear that would establish economic ties with small and medium-sized independent manufacturers.

The minister is convinced that his program would change in a year the organizational structure of the industrial complex by 30% to 40% percent, stop the slump in production and keep economic ties with CIS partners. In his opinion such a form of property is being used in world practice and is attractive for foreign investors.

Mr. Titkin also favors the formation of a committee for restructuring the industry under the Industry Ministry. It should be an analytical and organization body determining the strategy of restructuring the industry and developing its scientific and technological potential.

Privatization Process Meets With Problems

LD0909191592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1636 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—The presidential instruction to transform enterprises into open-type joint stock companies by November is unrealistic. This conclusion has been drawn by the newspaper "BUSINESS AND BANKS" which analysed the present situation in the privatisation area. The newspaper explains this unsatisfying forecast by the fact that the committees for the management of state property are unable to cope with a spate of arising problems and that enterprises are not yet ready for privatisation. In addition, directors clearly do not like the idea.

On the other hand, putting into operation the system of privatisation cheques is delayed, the newspaper writes. A great deal of law-making and organisational work is ahead.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that a developed infrastructure of the stock market—investment companies, foundations, banks, consulting and auditing firms that could help the population profitably to invest their savings—is lacking.

Meanwhile, the pace of the privatisation of housing in Russia increased considerably. It went up 13 times for the period from January to July as compared with the same period last year. According to the information of the Russian State Statistical Committee, 713,000 flats in houses of state and public stock have been privatised over the period. This makes up two per cent of the total number of apartments that are to be privatised.

557,000 apartments with the total floor space of 27 million square metres were turned over to Russian citizens free of charge to become their private property, over the past seven months. The privatisation of housing proceeds at a particularly high pace in Adyghe and the Altay. Ten per cent of apartments have already become private property there.

Government Issues Social Protection Program

LD0909122292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] ITAR-TASS reports that the Moscow Government has adopted a general program of social protection for families under conditions of economic reforms. This document aims at first helping the 350,000 young Moscow families who live below the poverty line. In particular a supplement of 1,350 rubles has been added to the one-time allowance given at the birth of a baby. There are plans to set up a city family planning service and a psychology center, which will include a help line, as well as medical and legal consultancies.

Gaydar on Problems of Post-Socialist Economy

PM0909132892 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

[Article by Yegor Gaydar "especially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI": "Yegor Gaydar: The Reform Started From Scratch. And of Course Adjustments Have To Be Made..."]

[Text] Probably the economic theory of the radical transformation of the East European and Soviet economy that is currently under way will look very different. Even now it is quite obvious that works on Soviet and East European economics are being moved from the shelf labeled "Comparative Analysis of Economic Systems" to another shelf, entitled "Economics of Development."

What is this very significant and new thing that the transformations in Eastern Europe and Russia have contributed to economic theory? Here it is apposite to recall how this process was perceived in the mid-eighties in traditional works on economic reforms in socialist countries.

Re-reading these words, you see that perhaps the most serious mistake to have been overthrown by experience was the idea of the high degree of manageability of the process of transforming the socialist economy into a market economy. It was thought that this process would take place in the form of some kind of social engineering, within which the mighty state, prompted either by social justice or by economic efficiency, would introduce an additional range of new, market-oriented mechanisms, gradually crowding out those that were characteristic of the socialist type of economy.

Experience has shown that in reality this process is very different. It begins at a time when traditional political institutions of power are losing their capacity to ensure effective political control of the country, the situation, and the economy. This process is implemented by institutionally weak governments which have only limited capability and freedom of movement and are forced to deal with very powerful tectonic processes taking place in the societies and economies in question.

An institutional vacuum is created, in which resource flows are no longer regulated via the old, integral hierarchy but are not yet regulated on the basis of a system of markets with equal degrees of monopolization. In the Soviet Union in 1989-1991 these conflicts took on perhaps the most dramatic characteristics. The country's size and the rapid loss of governability of the national economy both played a part. As a result by 1991, when control of resource flows was lost at both Union and Russian level, chaotic and uncontrollable processes of curtailing economic activeness began to develop. These dealt very painful blows to the vital sectors. The economy simply went out of control. The center proved incapable of exerting any influence on resource flows.

In this situation the startup of market mechanisms does not take place at a time when the appropriate preconditions have been created, but at a moment when the traditional hierarchical mechanisms for regulating resources fail completely. Hence a severe blow is inevitably inflicted on those economic components that find themselves unexpectedly, virtually from scratch, having to adapt to a fundamentally different regulation mechanism.

In my view this process is made particularly difficult by the fact that in the last years of the totalitarian regime and hierarchical economy, it consistently loses its capacity to regulate macroeconomic and especially financial proportions. The traditional socialist economy used to ensure high economic growth rates over a historically long period, among other things by virtue of its ability to mobilize large-scale financial resources.

In recent years the crisis of the political system of the totalitarian regime has also led to the loss of the ability to control finances. State expenditure increases rapidly. Claims by various social groups escalate. And at the same time the state's capacity for mobilizing financial resources is drastically reduced. Major disproportions also appeared in material flows. The state budget deficit went above 20 percent of GNP.

In this situation, especially in view of the absence of powerful, developed market regulators, the startup of the market mechanism naturally entailed a very serious risk of the speedy development of hyperinflationary processes, which would have resulted in the preservation of the same old shortage-ridden, moneyless economy, but with nominally free prices.

What can one say about the results of the last nine months from the viewpoint of combating inflationary processes and launching market institutions? First, inflation is still exerting a powerful influence. The entire functioning of economic entities is cost-based. It takes time and a consistent policy to make enterprises realize that they are now in a fundamentally different situation and begin to react to demand-based constraints: to hold back price increases and cut production of goods that are not in demand.

Leaving aside the details, one can say that the reaction of economic entities to a restrictive macroeconomic policy proved adequate on the whole. The rate of price increases fell quite steadily month by month, from the extremely high rate in January to the moderate levels of July and early August. Enterprises naturally ensured a significantly higher rate of price increases than was justified by the accumulated money surplus [denezhnogo navesa], primarily through expansion of interenterprise credits. It is interesting that the maximum volume of these credits, reached by 1 June, totaled 3.2 trillion rubles [R], approximately 20 percent of the GNP expected for 1992. This is all the more interesting in that it increased to approximately the same size in Czechoslovakia, for instance, in an analogous situation.

When people talk about the expansion of credits between enterprises, they usually add that these paralyze the effectiveness of the state's anti-inflationary monetary policy. Here they ignore the fact that the enterprises are putting massive pressure on the government with a view to turning these credit resources (quasi-money) into real money. It is the refusal by the State Bank of Russia to do this that is basically making the enterprises adapt step by step to a fundamentally different situation and orient themselves toward effective demand. With the passage of time they themselves are beginning to look very attentively at their own clients' ability to pay. And to go over increasingly from payment drafts to other, more binding forms of payment, beginning with prepayment.

Specific problems of stabilization in the conditions of the Soviet economy were associated with the fact that here we do not have what experts call a "nominal

anchor." That is, a kind of point of reckoning to which all reformist and stabilization measures are linked. The fact is that using frozen wages as a "nominal anchor" in January 1992 and at the same time freeing prices meant provoking an inevitable social explosion, or a torrent of demands on the government against which it could not have stood its ground.

The use of the exchange rate as a "nominal anchor" was unreasonable for a different reason. We embarked on the reform with zero currency reserves and with no possibility of interventions or maneuvers on that market. Therefore, to try, in this situation, to fix the dollar rate was simply impossible. As a result we were forced to begin a stabilization policy of a highly orthodox type, not envisaging the use of any proper kind of "nominal anchor." Naturally, we expected that in this situation inflationary inertia would be very strong and the effectiveness of macroeconomic policy would be very restricted. That was why our main aim was not to achieve immediate, stable macroeconomic and financial equilibrium and stop price rises, but to prevent catastrophic disproportions in the monetary sphere. And first and foremost the development of hyperinflationary processes. That is the task our government has managed to resolve in past months. This is an indication that even in a situation where there is no "nominal anchor," a fairly consistent credit policy is still effective, albeit only relatively.

How do the problems of structural reforms and the long-term problems of the development of the Russian economy look, in our view? I think it is quite obvious to everyone that there is no single optimum model for the privatization of state property. This is an area where the rigorous logic of interconnections ends and sociopolitical arguments begin. The formulation of an uncontentious, irreproachable model for privatization was not part of our tasks. We tried to realize the model that would be most practicable and that would be accepted by influential social groups as reflecting their interests to some extent. Hence we were forced to compromise, and to combine in a single privatization program some fairly contradictory concepts in connection with the rights of directors, labor collectives, and mass popular privatization.

Judging by the way the process of issuing shares in enterprises has begun to develop in recent weeks, it can be claimed that some kind of balance of interests was achieved. Today we no longer have to use a big stick to drive enterprises into issuing shares. Whereas quite recently people were constantly appealing to the organs of power demanding that this or that sphere be exempted from the privatization process, today we are constantly coming across demands to lift the restrictions that exist and widen the range of economic entities to which privatization applies.

As for the long-term problems of our country's development and of post-socialist economies in general, here the most important is the long-term shortage of savings, necessary to ensure stable, normal financing and economic growth. Unfortunately, socialist economies have left a legacy of an accumulations structure that is very poorly adapted to ensuring stable growth. The main traditional saver in the socialist economy—the state—began to leave this sphere in the late eighties. The volume of state investments is becoming less than the state budget deficit. Enterprises encountering a fundamentally new situation and finding themselves facing uncertain ownership relations are switching their activity to the creation of reserves and are very rarely interested in financing large-scale investment projects. In this connection the role and weight of enterprises in financing development are naturally reduced.

And finally, we have to face a long-term low level of savings among the population, inherited from the socialist economy. Poor quality but free health care, free education, and more or less state-distributed housing. A pensions system that is none too lavish, but is relatively developed in relation to our level of economic well-being—all this naturally generated and stimulated the maintenance of voluntary savings by the population at a low level—approximately 3 to 4 percent of GNP. In the context of a severe economic crisis and decline in living standards, these levels are certainly not going to show any tendency toward growth. And that is perhaps the most serious long-term problem. How can we make the transition from growth based on large-scale tax deductions by the state and state financing, to growth based on large-scale private savings by the population and their redistribution by market forces? How can we ensure highly effective long-term projects? How can we bring into play the large-scale investments complex left to us from the former Soviet Union? I think this group of problems will be very important in terms of the prospects for economic growth in Russia and throughout Eastern Europe.

Downturn in Inflation Seen as Illusory

PM0909113592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Commentary by Boris Rayzberg: "Inflationary Maelstrom"]

[Text] It is difficult not only to predict the shape of socioeconomic indicators in the very near future but even to confidently foresee the direction in which economic events will develop.

On the one hand, July-August saw the lowest inflation rate over the past year—8 percent. This, of course, is substantially higher than the 3-percent mark that the government had planned to hit by the end of the year, but it is quite tolerable. But inflationary expectations are not so rosy. It is clear that the issue of 5,000-ruble [R] notes, the overall increase in the amount of money being printed, and the paying out of people's salary backlogs will lead to a surge in the money supply that will hit the market for goods, the production of which continues to

decline. Consequently, the hope that inflation will continue its downtrend seems illusory.

The fact that price growth is to a certain extent offsetting the increase in wages and incomes is some consolation. Average wages in the country have now passed the R5,000 mark. If this figure is compared with the pre-inflationary wage levels of two years ago, it turns out that in ruble terms wages have grown around 25-fold. And, although retail prices have increased by approximately 30-40 times over this period, wages are showing an obvious desire to keep up with prices.

Ultimately, the way we will be living in the next few months, and what and how much we will be consuming will be determined not by prices and incomes but by the production and acquisition of necessities [blago]. At the top of the food consumption league in Russia are bread and potatoes, they are followed by milk, meat, and butter. This year's grain harvest is expected to slightly surpass last year's. The potato situation is somewhat worse, but, on the whole and given the extreme disparities in the harvest region by region, there are grounds to hope that we will not be left without potatoes or vegetables.

At the same time, there are two worrying points as regards the food problem. State grain purchases from producers have been so difficult that the government has had to decide on a significant—threefold or fivefold—increase in purchase prices for grain. As a result, a kilogram of grain will now cost the state approximately R20. And in order not to raise bread prices to the level of, say, R30 a kilogram—which would be in line with the new purchase prices—considerable subsidies from the state budget have been revived.

Despite the fact that the grain harvest is near average, Russia will not be able to avoid buying around 10 million, if not 20 million tonnes of grain on the world market in the coming year—that is, at the level of 15-20 percent of our own harvest. But where will the foreign exchange for such purchases come from if this year Russia will have to pay $10 billion to service its foreign debt and can only scrape together $2-3 billion? There have already been problems with paying for grain purchases in Canada, and Australia is complaining about payments being postponed. We must urgently find sources of foreign currency revenue and reach agreement on deferring debt repayment.

Many people have been shocked by the fall in the ruble exchange rate. In the past few days the dollar has increased from R160 to R210. And this is happening at a time when the dollar rate on the world market is falling noticeably against the German mark and even against the British pound sterling. Further losses of dollar value by the ruble would be out of step not only with the past assurances that the rate would be stabilized at R80 to the dollar, but also with the relative easing off of inflation over the past few months.

Other factors—largely psychological—are at work. There is no confidence in the ruble in the country, the number of rubles is increasing and their quality is falling. The daily sales of $30-40,000 on the foreign exchanges—mopping up R6-8 billion—are not reducing the demand for dollars. Out of the $24 billion promised to Russia by international currency organizations, only $1 billion has been received. This billion has thousands of holes in it, and the Central Bank of Russia, which has renewed its leadership and its operating strategy, is hardly likely to use its own scant dollar resources for foreign currency intervention, throwing them away in the market to bolster a falling ruble. In any case, can a stable—much less a convertible—ruble exist at all in a weak economy?

Along with the now-familiar term "inflationary expectations," our modern speech includes the nicer phrase "privatization expectations." Gradually we will all be issued with privatization checks worth R10,000 each. This is based on the old, premarket calculation of the value of the state property to be privatized. And since the value of state enterprises' fixed capital has increased approximately 25-fold, we can say that each check will be able to buy shares in state property that are worth R250,000 in current prices. At any event, that is the idea behind privatization reform.

If you further take account of the fact that a presidential decree envisages the mandatory flotation of most state enterprises, then Russians have entirely realistic chances of becoming shareholders. Or they could sell their check for a similar price in rubles, or perhaps even dollars. But it is impossible to predict what price the checks would command.

Our transformation into shareholders could hold many surprises—both pleasant and unpleasant. Who among us is capable of making a reasoned decision as to which shares to invest in, whether we should invest in shares or sell the check for money, and how to make sure we do not sell it for too little? How will enterprise workers view the fact that some of the enterprise's profits will go on dividends to shareholders?

Only time will provide the answer to all these questions.

Situation Deteriorates in Food Market

LD0909190792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Kleshkov]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—The situation on the Russian food market continues to deteriorate. The output of food products has decreased on the average by 22 per cent during the eight first months of this year as compared to the corresponding period of 1991. According to the State Statistical Board of Russia, the output of meat, cheese, cereals, vegetable oil and tea has dropped by 15-37 per cent, and dairy products—by almost 50 per cent.

Due to shrinking supply, specialists believe, prices are being raised to balance it out with the demand. This interferes with the sale of products and gluts the market. Trading organisations, for instance, in Orel, Kostroma, Smolensk and Astrakhan are known to have slashed their orders due to excessively high prices and low quality of the goods. They have sometimes even refused to accept meat products. A similar situation has developed with dairy products in Belgorod, Tula, Perm and Gorno-Altaysk. Meat and dairy factories in those regions are confronted with the problem of marketing their goods. Hence, they are unable to operate at full capacity. Sometimes they are even compelled to stop their enterprises.

In the meantime, high prices have not solved the problem of sugar or vegetable oil shortage. The latter can rarely be seen on shop counters in Western Siberia and the North Caucasian region. There has not been any sugar on sale in Kursk, Stavropol and Orenburg since May. At the same time, it remains unsold due to exorbitant prices of more than 90 roubles per kilogram in Tver, Saransk, Vladimir and Vladivostok.

The situation on the Russian food market was aggravated by the failure of CIS countries and the Baltic states to honour their contracts. According to the State Statistical Board, only 15 per cent of the milk and dairy products, envisaged by annual agreements with those countries, have been received from them in the first half of this year. Thus, Latvia and Ukraine have delivered correspondingly 16 and 1 per cent of the contracted volume of dairy products. The situation is equally bad with meat deliveries: Latvia has delivered only 7 per cent and Moldova—3 per cent of the contracted amounts.

Grain Sales to State Down From Last Year

PM0909110792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Valeriy Konovalov under the "Events, Commentaries" rubric: "Peasants Continue the Harvest, Agricultural Chiefs Continue the Struggle"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The struggle at the top is having little effect on peasants' everyday lives. The harvest is taking its course. Over 70 million tonnes of grain have already been threshed. Some 13.5 million tonnes, or 44.1 percent of compulsory deliveries, have been sold to the state (by this date last year 16.2 million tonnes of grain had been sold). As Aleksandr Klepikov, chief of a department of the Russian Committee for Grain Products, told us, Tambov Oblast has just fulfilled its contract with the state and Nizhniy Novogorod, Kursk, and Belgorod Oblasts are close to doing so. The main suppliers—the Kuban, the Don, and Stavropol—are continuing to hold back the sale of grain, apparently waiting for the harvesting of all grain crops to end and for the harvest, market conditions, and prices to become absolutely clear. Today's average purchase price for a tonne of grain in Russia is around 12,000 rubles, depending on strain and class.

Scientific Issues

Institute Improves Satellite Launch System

OW0909023992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Burlak space project, which will allow small satellites to be launched to near-earth orbit more easily and with fewer environmental problems, could become a reality in Russia by 1995. Specialists think the Burlak project is worth 8-10 billion rubles (in 1992 prices).

Radomir Korol, deputy general director of the Center for scientific research and programing for the Russian Aviaprom concern (created on the basis of the former Ministry for the Aviation Industry) told INTERFAX in an interview that the Burlak project is the main part of the state Profit-Kon program (production, fundamental research, technology-conversion), which was approved July 30th this year by the Russian Supreme Soviet.

According to developers, a rocket carrier with a payload of 840-1100 kg will be launched into a circular orbit up to 1000 km from on board a Tu-160SK (a modified series of the strategic supersonic Tu-160 bomber) at high altitudes and speeds, which will lower energy costs in comparison to similar earth launches by two to three times. In addition to this, thanks to a sharp drop in the costs of transportation, construction and servicing launch positions and renting aerodromes, the cost of a launch using Burlak could drop by 2-2.5 times. Presently, it costs $6-12 thousand for one kilogram of payload on a satellite for earth stations sent into orbit using either a Torad-Delta or Arian rocket.

The Gruppa Jet joint stock company, which was specially formed for this purpose by several enterprises in the defense industry, shall handle centralized leadership and provide financing through credits from commercial banks. The Technical Burlak Association was formed to realize the program; Burlak unites the Tupolev aviational scientific-technical complex, the Raduga design bureau and other leading space aviation enterprises.

The Russian joint stock company Transekspo is considering opportunities to develop a satellite communications network presently being called "Russian Space Communications" together with Burlak.

Supreme Soviet

Fifth Session of Supreme Soviet To Meet 22 Sep

LD0909164992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—The Presidium of Russia's Supreme Soviet decided to convene the 5th session of the republic's parliament in Moscow on September 22, 1992, according to an official statement distributed here on Wednesday [9 September].

Russian Unity's Isakov Previews Session

PM0909105392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Sep 92 p 2

[Interview with People's Deputy Vladimir Isakov, member of the "Russian Unity" bloc's Coordinating Council, by Georgiy Ovcharenko; place, date not given: "On the Eve of the Russian Supreme Soviet Session. Parliament in Raging Sea of Crisis"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet session has not yet opened, but political passions over it have already become extremely heated. We asked Russian Federation People's Deputy Vladimir Isakov, member of the "Russian Unity" bloc's Coordinating Council, to comment on the situation on the eve of the session.

[Ovcharenko] Vladimir Borisovich, what is the program for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's fifth session, which is opening in a few days?

[Isakov] The tentative list of questions was recently distributed on a committee basis; it contains over 160 points, but there are only a few very important ones. They are above all the government program for "deepening the reforms," presented by the president at the end of the last session. Parliament is going to discuss the draft Law on the Government and Its Head—up to now Vice Premier Ye.T. Gaydar has been "acting"...

[Ovcharenko] What do you think his chances of becoming premier are?

[Isakov] Considerably weaker, I think, than at the beginning of the year, when the government was just starting to implement its program. The time for fine words and tempting promises has passed. The destructive results of the government's policy are now evident.

[Ovcharenko] By all accounts, one of the session's main topics is the new Russian Constitution.

[Isakov] The Russian president has introduced a range of amendments which will be discussed in the Supreme Soviet. Some of them are indisputable and improve the draft—for example, the provision extending citizens' right to appeal to international organizations for help. But most are aimed at further strengthening presidential authority and enshrining on a permanent basis those "additional powers" that the congress entrusted to the president temporarily. I consider this unacceptable. It is evident even now that the presidential authority is trying to trample underfoot not only the legislative organs but also the judicial authority. The powers are really more than adequate but there is less and less order. It is evidently not a matter of endlessly accumulating powers but of the ability to use them—on a constitutional basis, within the framework of the law.

[Ovcharenko] The session has not yet opened, but the political battles, it seems, have started in earnest.

[Isakov] The situation taking shape in the republic at present is causing considerable alarm. A real war is in progress on Russia's nearest borders and in Abkhazia. Moreover, not only against the indigenous population but also against Russians. Parliament must not remain apathetic. The Russian president is going to visit Japan, taking in his diplomatic baggage, according to him, 12 options for solving the Kurils problem. Parliament does not know about them. The government has started the campaign to issue privatization vouchers, despite the public's protests and the opinion of serious economists. Furthermore, there is an existing law "On Personal Privatization Accounts and Deposits" which has not been abolished by anybody and which sets out an entirely different procedure. All this compelled the "Russian Unity" bloc to make a statement on convening an extraordinary session.

[Ovcharenko] And your parliamentary opponents from the "Reform" group have in turn demanded the Supreme Soviet chairman's resignation?

[Isakov] This is part of their tactics, aimed at discrediting parliament and blocking its work. At the time of the gravest economic crisis, attention is being concentrated on trifling and essentially clerical questions—the assignment of official duties among the Supreme Soviet chairman's deputies. A real problem of problems! Essentially it is a new round of the campaign aimed at demolishing the constitutional organs of authority and establishing presidential rule and, more simply put, a dictatorship.

[Ovcharenko] What are the chances of this policy succeeding?

[Isakov] It seems to me that it is time to address the reasons for the crisis and to understand its roots. They lie in an arbitrarily chosen economic policy which was not agreed either with parliament or with the people and which has led society to unprecedented ruin. To weakness and a lack of autonomy in the Russian leadership's foreign policy. To ideological tunnel vision in the current Russian leaders. These are the reasons. And while they exist, no political intrigues or parliamentary games will save the situation. Neither will a dictatorship save it; rather, it will make the crisis graver and more destructive. The republic now faces a choice: Either the crisis situation with all its complexity will be resolved in a civilized fashion, within the framework of the law and Constitution, or events will burst through the constitutional framework.

Deputy: Khasbulatov 'Acts Aimed Coup d'Etat'

PM0909154192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 92 First Edition p 2

["Own Information" report under the rubric "Concerning Parliament": "Inflaming Passions"]

[Text] Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the Committee for the Mass Media, Links with Public Organizations and Citizens' Mass Movements, and the Study of Public Opinion, gave a press conference at the White House on 8 September. He repeated the well-known comments of certain deputies about decisions to redistribute duties among the deputy speakers of parliament. Vyacheslav Bragin stated that "the actions of the Supreme Soviet chairman are harming the effectiveness of parliament's work and causing its prestige among the voters to decline."

The 23 deputies' message has been supported by the Mass Media Committee, Bragin went on to state. He insisted that the chairman of the Supreme Soviet give an account of his activity.

Vyacheslav Bragin also spoke about the IZVESTIYA problem. In his opinion, "this is not an ownership question but a purely political one."

Deputy Vyacheslav Volkov went even further in his accusations: He views the actions of Khasbulatov and his apparatus "as far-reaching and planned acts aimed at a coup d'etat."

Khasbulatov Conduct at Session Criticized

PM0909135192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy: "Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium Sitting Exposes Disagreements"]

[Text] "The fifth session will certainly be complex. But I do not share at all the fears being instilled in the public of a confrontation threatening our society in October and November"—with this statement the 7 September sitting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium was opened by its chairman, R. Khasbulatov.

"At the upcoming session parliament must devote particular attention to the deteriorating socioeconomic position of Russians. Unfortunately, we do not know when this drop in living standards will end," R. Khasbulatov remarked. "I believe that, if it were not for the major mistakes in realizing socioeconomic policy, we could have reckoned on stabilizing the population's living standards. But this is evidently unrealistic under present conditions.

"Concord alone—public concord and concord among all the institutions of power—is seen as the only possibility for successfully implementing the reform," R. Khasbulatov said. You sometimes get the impression that some people, in order to divert public attention from the failures in implementing economic reforms, are trying to organize minor political scandals or propaganda campaigns.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a decision to convene the fifth session of parliament on 22 September. The question of the Russian Federation laws returned by the president of the Russian Federation was also examined, and the commissions of the chambers and the Supreme Soviet committees were entrusted with preparing these laws for examination in the Supreme Soviet.

Before the very beginning of this sitting the Committee for the Mass Media, Relations with Public Organizations and Citizens' Mass Movements, and the Study of Public Opinion examined the question of a violation of legality by Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov. A document adopted almost unanimously points out that "many provisions of documents published recently by the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet... run counter to the Russian Federation Constitution and to resolutions and the standing orders of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and are aimed at strengthening the Supreme Soviet chairman's personal power and establishing authoritarian methods of leading the Supreme Soviet, its committees, the chambers' commissions, and the apparatus and total control over their activity."

In the belief that the unlawful actions of the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet harm the effectiveness of the Supreme Soviet's work and lead to a drop in the prestige of parliament among voters, the committee decided to express no confidence in R.I. Khasbulatov in connection with his anticonstitutional and illegal activity..., to demand that the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet account for his activity in connection with the publication of anticonstitutional and illegal documents, and also to "set up a deputies' commission to prepare this question."

The committee entrusted its chairman—V. Bragin, member of the Presidium—with submitting this document to the Supreme Soviet Presidium for examination. But Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov never gave the Presidium an opportunity to examine the questions raised in the committee's decision. Here is what V. Bragin told IZVESTIYA's correspondent in this connection:

"During the Presidium sitting I repeatedly asked Khasbulatov to give me the floor, and I sent him notes three times. But he violated the procedure for the sitting, according to which it was necessary to discuss whether to examine our question, violated my rights as a deputy and a Presidium member, and never gave me the floor. This was despite the fact that during the Presidium sitting I went up to members of the committee, and they unanimously demanded that the question be discussed in the Presidium. When Deputies B. Denisenko, N. Arzhannikov, and L. Ponomarev, who were indignant at this

behavior of the chairman, began demanding in the Presidium that I nonetheless be given the floor, Khasbulatov declared the open sitting ended and moved it into his own office, thereby making it 'closed.' I am convinced that the violation of the standing orders is connected precisely with the fact that the open sitting of the Presidium was attended by numerous deputies, journalists, and invited guests.

"After this," V. Bragin continued, "a group of deputies—about 20 people—tried to get into the chairman's office. But the guards did not let them in for a long time. This was despite the fact that, according to the standing orders, there is no such thing as Presidium sittings that are 'closed' to deputies. In Khasbulatov's office I told the members of the Presidium that, if we do not make an appraisal of the chairman's activity and continue hiding our heads in the sand, this will end for the Supreme Soviet not just in a loss of prestige but ultimately in catastrophe. Because the chairman's activity not only leads to authoritarianism in parliament, but is also aimed at setting himself up against the president, and the entire Supreme Soviet against the government. But Khasbulatov never allowed the question raised by our committee to be examined even in the 'closed' sitting.

"On the other hand," V. Bragin also related, "the question of IZVESTIYA was once again put to the Presidium sitting. It was pushed through by Khasbulatov with the same persistence as when he blocked a discussion of the question of himself. The document was prepared in circumvention of our committee, without the knowledge of the overwhelming majority of the Presidium members. Again Khasbulatov proposed adopting it without a discussion. A number of Presidium members came out categorically against a hasty discussion of this question, in circumvention of the profile committee."

INTERFAX reports that the deputies who deferred a discussion of the resolution until the next sitting of the Presidium on 14 September referred to the fact that the document had not been examined in parliamentary committees.

According to one Presidium member, Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian Supreme Soviet, declared that, if "a solution has not been found in one week's time," then the speaker will decide the fate of the IZVESTIYA Publishing House with his "own ordinance."

Parliament Postpones IZVESTIYA Discussion

OW0809190892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [7 September], the presidium of the Russian parliament once again put off the discussion of the problem of the rights to the IZVESTIA's printing facilities and did not pass any resolution on the founder's rights of the parliament.

The draft resolution was discussed in the evening September 7 during a closed part of the session which was not attended by journalists.

The draft resolution also provided for the appointment of Yuriy Yefremov to the post of acting director of the Izvestia Publishers as an organ of the Soviets of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation.

According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, the deputies who put off the discussion of the resolution till September 14 did so because the document had not been analyzed by the parliamentary committees.

A member of the presidium quoted chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov as saying that "if in a week no solution is found either, he will decide the future of IZVESTIYA on his own.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Roundtable Rallying Caucasian Peoples

LD0809110892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1033 GMT 8 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy September 8 TASS—"The redeployment of Russia interior troops in the northern Caucasus is regarded here as an attempt to pressure the Chechen Republic," ITAR-TASS was told by Chairman of the Chechen State Committee for Information and the Press Movladi Udugov. He claimed that the "Red Berets" were being concentrated only around the Chechen Republic. Udugov believes these actions are intended to prevent the Caucasian peoples from rallying around the rebellious Chechen Republic.

The "Caucasian home" roundtable, held in Groznyy from September 4-5 on the initiative of Dzhokhar Dudayev, was intended to rally the Caucasian peoples in spite of this.

Several important documents were adopted by this representative forum, attended by delegations from most of the Caucasian nations and from several foreign states. Its communique, published here today, contains primarily a call to the nations, states, public and religious organisations and associations, political parties and movements of the Caucasus to render all-out assistance to the creation of a "Caucasian home", within which "every nation will be ensured security and a chance for free development".

The roundtable urged all the conflicting sides on the territory of the Caucasus to immediately stop hostilities and get down to the peaceful solution of outstanding problems. It decided to address a separate message to the Russian people, urging them to "support the desire of the Caucasian peoples to live in peace and as good neighbours with all the other nations of the world". It also

reaffirmed the need to set up a confederation of Caucasian states, a single system of collective security in the Caucasus, and a supreme regional council of the Caucasus.

It was found necessary to set up a consultative council for implementing these decisions with a permanent bureau, as well as a single Caucasian information centre.

It is difficult to see today what concrete results the decisions of the roundtable will yield and when. The situation in the region remains tense and even rather hot in some places.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is actively seeking political and economic support not only in the region but outside it too. Yesterday evening, for instance, he met the Turkish president's son, who is now visiting here. They discussed the possibility of developing economic cooperation between the Chechen Republic and Turkey.

Dudayev Threatens 'War' Over Air Links

PM0809150592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 1

[INTERFAX report followed by unattributed "Postscript" under the general heading: "Republics"]

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has called on Bashkortostan and Tatarstan to "stop providing all types of services to Russian airlines." This call from the Chechen leader at the "Caucasian round table" being held in Groznyy came after the Chechen capital received a telegram from Moscow on 5 September stating that as of 0600 hours on 5 September all air links between Groznyy and all cities in the Russian Federation would cease. No reason for this was given in the telegram. The president warned that Checheniya would not be indifferent to such steps and that if "any government decides to interfere in Checheniya's internal affairs, we will wage war on their territory." [INTERFAX report ends]

Not for the first time General Dzhokhar Dudayev is demonstrating his readiness to launch a terrorist war in the CIS. It is hard to put any other interpretation on the Chechen president's "warning." The first such statement was aimed at Moscow during the preparations for the Russian invasion of CHechnya, while the last was made against Georgia after the Supreme Council sent troops into Abkhazia. Even people with only a passing familiarity with the world of terrorism realize that there is a very real power behind Dudayev's threats. Clearly, the laurels won by another general in the political sphere—Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—are weighing on the Chechen president's mind.

Dagestan Supreme Soviet Adopts New Constitution

LD0409204292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 3 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The latest extraordinary 19th session of the Supreme Soviet of Dagestan has ended in Makhachkala after adopting the republic's new draft constitution. In parallel with the session, an opposition meeting was being held by the combined committee of parties and popular movements. [passage omitted]

They demanded the inclusion in the constitution of a new electoral law, the self-disbandment of the Supreme Soviet, and the calling of early elections. [passage omitted]

The government showed irresoluteness and unwillingness for dialogue. Despite many requests and the human chains around the building, no one came out to address the people gathered on the square.

Tatar Official on Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan Ties

OW0909000792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the visits of Tatarstan's official delegation to Lithuania and Kyrgyzstan, the parties acknowledged the significance of Tatarstan as a nexus between East and West, says head of the delegation, Tatarstan's vice president Vasiliy Likhachev, at a press conference in Kazan Tuesday [8 September]. In his words, both Vilnius and Bishkek have shown great interest in the developments in the republic, its internal and external economic policy and the civilized methods of adjusting its relations with Russia.

Mr. Likhachev characterized as the most important landmarks the understanding reached in regards to operative elaboration of an economic agreement and opening of trade representations during his visit to Lithuania.

The vice president qualified the agreements with Kyrgyzstan as the parties' "first experience in international and legal definition of the principles of mutually advantageous relations and cooperation between sovereign states". As a result of the delegation's visit to Bishkek, the sides signed a Declaration "On the Principles of Bilateral Relations and Cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Tatarstan". They pledged to contribute to creating most favorable conditions for developing various forms of entrepreneurship, strengthening the existing forms of trade and economic ties between both state and non-government structures.

Mr. Likhachev also stated Tatarstan's intention to promote and broaden bilateral relations with the Baltic countries, Russian Federation, Germany, France, Belgium, Finland, Turkey, United States, and China, noting the republic's initiation of actual contacts with such international organizations as UNESCO and the World Health Organization.

Tatarstan May 'Opt for Soft Privatization'

OW0509131792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1236 GMT 5 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatarstan is likely to opt for soft privatization," Tatarstan's Prime Minister Muhammad Sabirov told IF [INTERFAX].

He said that in the first place the property will be evaluated, because the left-over cost of state property used in Russia does not reflect the real situation. Then the price scale will be specified and property will be evaluated in accordance with it. Prior to privatization, ways of protecting the low-income groups and workers of state-run enterprises will be developed.

Sabirov said that preparations for privatization will last for more than three months, like in Russia. As to the privatization vouchers, they will be distributed according to the Russian scheme.

St. Petersburg Mayor Views Current Situation

LD0909102592

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1515 GMT on 8 September carries a 45-minute live interview with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Sobchak by Bella Kurkova at the Russian Television Network studios in St. Petersburg.

Kurkova begins the interview by asking: "Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, what do think is really hindering reforms at present? Keeping in mind that in a few days you and I are both going to a conference of chairmen of soviets of various levels in Cheboksary, where it is expected that the Russian president and government and the leadership of the Supreme Soviet will be present, what is it today that is slowing progress, and why is life so difficult for our people?"

Sobchak greets viewers on the anniversary of the Leningrad blockade and then says: "At present we are suffering a great deal because of what accumulated over previous decades. But we have also managed to create a lot of difficulties for ourselves. That is, we have committed a whole series of mistakes, which I have spoken about before, that considerably exacerbated the situation.

"If one speaks about the main thing, the situation will not improve until we begin to work better, until we halt the fall in production. Can we do this? Can we prevent unemployment? Can we prevent the closure of enterprises? Yes, of course we can."

Sobchak then criticizes the cash-shortage crisis that the government "short-sightedly" allowed to occur.

He continues: "The second crisis is the crisis of universal mutual nonpayments, which was also caused by a lack of elementary prudence. We entered the new economy with the old, socialist, planned system of accounting whereby it was possible to conduct accounts with nonexisting money because every enterprise was backed by the state. The economy was on the verge of grinding to a halt. But this is now behind us and we have overcome this crisis.

"It must be said that it was due to the energetic work of the new deputy prime ministers such as Shumeyko and Khizha. Many people in what I would call the pseudodemocratic press cried out that the red generals had arrived and so on. But in fact those who had arrived were competent people who knew what to do. They implemented the plan that we in St. Petersburg had proposed to the government as far back as March. In the final analysis, when it was implemented it turned out that this was indeed possible and the most important thing is that we were able—the government was able—in literally a month and a half to eliminate this most important problem of mutual nonpayments in some way—mostly, even though not yet completely—and this inspires the hope that other problems can also be solved." Sobchak adds that incomes should be brought into line with prices.

Kurkova then asks why Sobchak does not persuade the government to do these things. Sobchak replies: "I approach the government at least twice a week and defend the relevant positions and raise questions connected with price policy and the policy of social protection and on the need to allocate cash and on other questions.

"I meet with various degrees of success. With the present finance minister, for example, it is easier to reach agreement than with many others since he is a man who has a professional knowledge not only of the theory but also of the practice of business. I manage to reach agreement with Vasiliy Barchuk on virtually all St. Petersburg issues, so we really solve all the city's problems, not leaving the city in an impasse or on the verge of social catastrophe.

"But with other ministers, with Economics Minister Nechayev, for example, I cannot manage to resolve a single question since all questions connected with the creation of a free economic zone and many others—the most obvious questions, the question of supplying the city with oil products—reach an impasse—an impasse caused by our government structure. We cannot deal with our local swindlers because they are supported by the relevant government structures. I am not saying they provide open support but the swindlers are subordinated to them and we cannot get rid of them."

Kurkova then notes that all gas stations in Russia are controlled by the government. In response, Sobchak says: "This is very bad. I propose that all these filling stations should be privatized and that demobilized officers should be stationed at them, still with their weapons, and they would impose order there. Then we would not need to worry about these gas stations. But I have been trying unsuccessfully for 18 months to get the

oil product supply system reorganized, because the existing system benefits only the swindlers. Unfortunately, I am unable to break this vicious circle of unwillingness to resolve this question. I have spoken to the president and to the government on this question. All are in favor but the problem does not get solved. There is only one way forward: We must go along the path of decentralization, especially with regard to economic decisions."

Sobchak then expounds on the advantages of decentralization. He tells of the disagreements with the leadership of the oblast over allocation of land to city residents. Sobchak calls for a drastic reduction in the number of deputies at all levels. A new constitution must be adopted, he adds. In conclusion, Sobchak states that the issuing of privatization checks should have been preceded by the privatization of enterprises, housing, and land.

Tsyplyayev To Represent Yeltsin in St. Petersburg

PM1009094992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] Sergey Tsyplyayev, who had previously been scientific secretary at the S.I. Vavilov State Optical Institute, has been appointed the Russian president's representative in St. Petersburg. In the Union Supreme Soviet he was a member of the Committee for Defense and State Security Issues. He is a candidate of physical and mathematical sciences.

International Conference Discusses Kaliningrad

WS0909130392 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1739 GMT 8 Sep 92

["(?Battle) for Kaliningrad Has Started"—ELTA NEWS BULLETIN headline; from ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 74]

[Text] 8 September 1992—[Words indistinct] weekend in Svetlogorsk an international conference "The Baltic Region of Russia: Its (?Perspectives) and Development" was organized by the Fund of International Relations in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with delegations from the Baltic States, Greece, Belgium, France and Great Britain, a great number of businessmen and bankers taking part. The work of the conference was divided into two sections: that of economy and law and that of political and ecological problems.

Yesterday the Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Katkus spoke about the results of the conference in a briefing held at the Supreme Council.

Representatives of the German delegation unanimously declared that Germany did not and would not lay any claims to the region of Kaliningrad. Members of the Russian delegation maintained that this region is a inseparable part of Russia. The Russian Vice-Minister of Defence Mr. Mironov promised to reduce the military forces in the territory within reasonable limits.

The opinions of the representatives of Kaliningrad region differed. All of them referred to the territory as an inseparable part of Russia. Though some of them viewed Kaliningrad as a free economic zone, others demanded autonomy or the status of a republic within the Russian Federation. A member of the Kaliningrad Republican Party maintained that as the region lies between Lithuania and Poland, it would be more reasonable to think about its self-dependence.

There are 221 joint ventures in this region. 55 per cent of their financial capital belongs to Germany, 26 per cent—to Poland and only 2 per cent to Lithuania. Lithuanian businessmen should be more active, Mr. Katkus stressed, yet none of them participated in the conference. Vice-Minister Mr. Katkus also informed about the decision to set up a Lithuanian economic mission in Kaliningrad. This decision met with the approval of the Kaliningrad administration. Later on such a mission could be transformed into a Consulate General.

Mr. Katkus informed that almost 40 per cent of the territory's population adhere to the opinion that the former name of the town, Konigsberg, should be restored.

At the same weekend the Polish and the Russian delegations held a round-table conference in Kaliningrad. The Polish delegation stressed the great interest of Poland in the territory of Kaliningrad.

On September 4, the Polish daily "Zycie Warszawy" published an interview with the chairman of the "Deutsche Bank", Mr. Christians, on the problem of Kaliningrad. Mr. Christians thinks that with the disappearance of the military importance of Kaliningrad disagreement may arise between Russia, Poland, Lithuania and Germany as they all are interested in this region. Finland, Sweden and Norway are not indifferent to it either. The most reasonable way out would be to form a zone of free trade. "It is hard to say when Kaliningrad becomes a second Hong-Kong but we cannot ignore this problem now, otherwise Kaliningrad may become the cause of a great danger", Mr. Christian thinks.

Yeltsin Decree Opens Sverdlovsk's Closed Areas

LD1009083792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Boris Yeltsin signed a decree lifting the ban on visits by foreign citizens to all previously closed areas in Sverdlovsk Oblast, with the exception of Sverdlovsk-44, Sverdlovsk-45, Nizhnyy Tagil-39, and also a number of defense enterprises. The European-Asian News agency reports this referring to information received from Vitaliy Mashkov, oblast soviet deputy and Sverdlovsk oblast presidential representative.

20 Large Khabarovsk Enterprises Shut Down

LD0909192392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Twenty large enterprises in Khabarovsk Kray have shut down. The reason is the lack of raw materials, the inability of consumers to pay, and the failure of suppliers to meet their obligations. Most of the blue and white collar workers have been sent off on unpaid leave.

Penza Military Plant Producing Wheelchairs

PM0909155592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 92 First Edition p 4

[Nikolay Bulavintsev report: "Burying the Bayonet"]

[Text] Penza—The "Zavod imeni Frunze" Production Association has become one of the first in Penza to completely halt production of defense output.

The plant has already organized production of wheelchairs, for which there are very many orders in the CIS countries. By the year's end the "Zavod imeni Frunze" plans to produce more than 1,000 wheelchairs, which—in the opinion of U.S. specialists who have visited the enterprises—wholly meet high world standards.

Civilian output needed by the population has also started to be produced by other enterprises in the oblast. For instance, the "VEM" plant is getting ready to produce its first batch of microwave ovens. The precision instruments plant has started producing the "Vzglyad-35" camera and answering machines. Production of civilian output is also being organized at other enterprises which used to be part of the military-industrial complex.

Nizhniy Novgorod Military Equipment Fair Open

PM0909154092 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 92

["Novosti" newscast video report by O. Bobin]

[Text] [Announcer] How to trade in grain so that both customer and seller are satisfied is an art we have not yet learned. It looks as though things are simpler when it comes to arms sales. What was secret has become open and prices have never been particularly high. Observers note that this year success at the Farnborough air show is going only to the Russians since they are offering the latest developments in the field of military and civilian aviation equipment at prices which no one in the West can hope to beat. A unique international fair opened in Nizhniy Novgorod today.

[Bobin] Just a year ago it was hard to imagine that our most secret weapons and combat equipment would become exhibits at a fair and this is the first time such a range of goods has been on display in the entire 175-year history of the fair at Nizhniy Novgorod. Why has our military-industrial complex backed this exhibition? The defense industry is now in a deep crisis and despite all its achievements and potential it cannot master conversion: The funds are lacking. After all, $150 billion are needed to switch to modern technology to produce consumer goods. If we do not trade in our arms on the world market, the market will not be empty as a result: The Americans alone earn tens of billions of dollars from this trade. The topic of conversion was also a basic one on the agenda of the "Bolshaya Volga" association where leaders of all oblasts and republics of the Volga region met at the same table. And it may be said that today our defense industry, which has always had tough administrative control, has switched to an ordinary economic footing and conversion is on trial in Nizhniy Novogorod under normal market conditions.

International Affairs

Gromov Opposes Decision on Naval Schools

AU1009143392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The Press Service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry has reported new facts concerning the situation around the higher naval schools in Sevastopol. It is emphasized that the atmosphere of gradual normalization of their work, already under the jurisdiction of Ukraine's military department, has been complicated by directives from Moscow. These are coded telegrams that Admiral Feliks Gromov, former first deputy chief commander of the CIS Navy and presently commander of Russia's Navy, sent to the command of the schools. He demands that the former status of these schools be restored, the work of the commissions of Ukraine's Defense Ministry Administration for Military Education be stopped, and members of these commissions be forbidden to enter the territory of the military schools. At the same time, the subordination of the Sevastopol schools to the joint military command of the Commonwealth [of Independent States) has been confirmed as well as their subordination to Russia.

These directives cannot be regarded other than blatant interference into the internal affairs of sovereign Ukraine, points out the Press Service statement.

Ministry Calls For New Fleet Commander

OW0809185292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has sent a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry dealing with the status of the Black-Sea Higher Naval School located in Sevastopol.

The note says, among other things, that on August 31 the commission of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry which arrived in Sevastopol to draft proposals on reorganizing the school into the Institute of the Ukrainian Navy received hostile treatment from Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Igor Kasatonov. Threats, force and other illegal methods were used against the commission members and against the acting head of the naval school, appointed by the Ukrainian defence minister.

Ukraine qualified the incident as a deliberate action of the Black Sea commander and of the forces in the Russian Defence Ministry which are interested in foiling the Yalta agreement.

The note says that talks on the joint command of the Black Sea Fleet should be held as soon as possible and that a new commander of the Black Sea Fleet should be appointed.

Agreement on Combating Crime Signed With Austria

AU0909144692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] Austria and Ukraine have signed a cooperation agreement in the sphere of combating organized crime and illegal trade in narcotics. Speaking to journalists, Franz Loeschnak and Andriy Vasylyshyn, internal affairs ministers of the two countries, stressed that the negotiations held in Vienna were extremely fruitful and opened up broad possibilities for intensifying the cooperation, primarily, from the point of view of exchanging information related to combating crime, terrorism, and drug trafficking.

In an interview for an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Andriy Vasylyshyn pointed out that problems of migration of the population and structural changes in the Austrian and Ukrainian ministries of internal affairs were also at the focus of the negotiations with Austrian colleagues.

All of this was reflected in a document that was signed as a result of the meeting. The document makes it possible to work more thoroughly, to study and exchange experience, and organize joint measures for preventing the trade in narcotics.

Australian National Appointed Consul

AU1009110092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Today, in Kiev, Ukraine's foreign minister Anatoliy Zlenko handed the consul's certificate to Australian citizen (?Zina Botte). As an honorary consul, she will represent the interests of Ukraine on the distant continent. On behalf of Ukraine's Supreme Council Presidium, Zina Botte was greeted by Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Standing Commission for Foreign Affairs.

Fokin Asks IMF For Funds To Stabilize New Currency

LD0409221492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Text] The Ukrainian prime minister has said that he has asked the International Monetary Fund for $6.5 million for his republic in order to stabilize the new currency. Prime Minister Vitold Fokin told a press conference in Kiev that the requested sum was three times greater than the original one. Ukraine is going to issue its own money by the end of the year. Vitold Fokin also said that the IMF leaders had not turned down the request yet, and asked for explanations how the money is going to be used.

National Affairs

Kravchuk on Purposes of State Grain Order

LD0909181192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Interview with President Leonid Kravchuk by Svetlana Makarenko in Kiev on 8 September; no video available—recorded]

[Text] Ukraine President Kravchuk held a meeting in Kiev today with presidential representatives in oblasts and the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol, heads of oblasts, Kiev and Sevastopol city councils, people's deputies of Ukraine, and the leadership of the Republic of Crimea. Members of the Cabinet of Ministers were also present. Before the beginning of our program, Ukrainian television broadcast an extended report about this event. Our correspondent Svetlana Makarenko interviewed Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk specially for our program.

[Kravchuk] One thing, as long as we live, as long as I remember, we have met in this hall before and now, the problem of grain is at issue now. For me and for everyone, this is not a puzzle. That system of administration which was there and is there today cannot provide the country with grain in the full volume because there is a problem of growing grain and there is a problem of selling grain and there is a problem of using grain. Let us put it this way, it is necessary to provide ourselves with grain. We, let us say, will have 41 or maybe 42 million tonnes. The state takes one-third through the state order, which is, how much is it, one-third of 42, it means it will be about 12, 13 million tonnes, no, 14. The state can also buy all the rest but then at stock exchange prices.

Why should we have such an approach today? This is a transitional period. It is because the state gives all other things to collective farms on privileged conditions. If it gives it on privileged conditions, it is entitled to take on some privileged conditions. It is fair, there are no breaches here. However, further, when everything is put on a new basis, it will not be like that any more, the market will decide what is privileged and what is not, but the state must guarantee grain to people.

Let us say, if we had today 3 million tonnes spare out of those 26 million that the collective farms have; say it is sold for dollars. One will buy grain, grain is needed everywhere. It would be more than enough in dollars in order to buy all additives, pesticides, all that is needed and to grow next year not 42 million but 52 million tonnes. However, that grain has to be sold. Collective farms, we can even be, even to say we guarantee [as heard]: You give 3 million tonnes of grain, we will sell it and will return every dollar, every cent of it to the collective farm for buying what they need for the future harvest.

[Makarenko-voice] There is a policy of letting it rot. Who is behind this?

[Kravchuk, interrupting] And something else, I will [word indistinct] there is such a village, you know, I am from a village myself, I know how things are. You know, when it is in a storeroom, it is good if it is in a storeroom, but if it is in the open air? He thinks that tomorrow they will give 1,000 more, I will become rich. However, on the day after tomorrow he loses what he has. There should be a state approach here. If only, let us say, the Agriculture Ministry put forward such an initiative: We are selling grain for dollars not just like this. These dollars are used for agriculture so that next year, I repeat, we will have a harvest greater by 10 million tonnes, and then we take again, and in such a way we get out of this situation. It is also a realistic matter.

Meanwhile we will build our plants. There are, by the way, interesting proposals on building one in Kharkov oblast. A presidential representatives was telling me that there is a possibility of organizing production of all these chemicals, pesticides which will not be worse in quality than Western technologies, there is one proposal, but again time is needed, but in order to live through this time and not lose our agriculture and not leave people without bread, we have to think altogether, it is not as if someone wanted to take something for oneself. It is for people.

Fokin Views Gravity of Grain Problem

LD0909183492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] As we have already reported, on 8 September the president of Ukraine held a meeting attended by presidential representatives in oblasts and the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol, heads of oblast soviets and city soviets, people's deputies, leaders of the Republic of Crimea, deputy heads of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, heads of standing commissions, members of the Cabinet of Ministers, state advisers, heads of boards of banks, and leaders of ministries and departments. The aim of the meeting was to set out prospects of work for implementing the economic program for carrying out reforms in Ukraine.

[Correspondent] The movement toward the market, it was stressed at the meeting, is impossible without privatization and denationalization of property, and privatization itself is impossible without privatization of land. First Vice Premier Valentyn Symonenko spoke about this closed circle in his report at the meeting. Speaking about obstacles on the path of privatization, he pointed to absence of the necessary legislative basis for carrying out deep economic changes as one of the problems. The following fact was quoted in the report: In order to speed up the process of privatization, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Fund of State Property, and the National Bank today

have to work out and pass 40 normative acts, 25 of which are priority. At the same time he stressed that the success of denationalization depends on the stability of legal acts.

Premier Vitold Fokin made a report on the progress of the economic reform at the meeting. Talk about privatization, he said, is talk about deepening economic reform in Ukraine. The program for this has been worked out by the Cabinet of Ministers and covers the period until 1993. It envisages a whole number of changes in the current programs for transferring the branches of the economy to the market. The main focus in the program is on structural changes in the national economy.

The problem of grain, the premier further stated in his report, is one of the most acute problems in our state. This problem is not only economic and social but also political. So far, stated the head of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the state has received only 11 million tonnes of grain. Many collective and state farms and rayons, especially in Kherson oblast, are ignoring the state order and awaiting more profitable conditions for grain sales. The unsold grain is kept, as a rule, in buildings not designed for it, where it rots and is wasted.

Vitold Fokin addressed those present with a proposal to work out additional privileges for those collective and state farms which have fulfilled and overfulfilled the state order and to take necessary measures and economic sanctions against those who block the state interests. Otherwise, Vitold Fokin stressed, the government will have to introduce a bread ration system and considerably raise prices of bread products.

Kravchuk on Economy, Political Frictions

PM1009160992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Lyudmila Dneprova report: "President Kravchuk Urges Government and Parliament To Cooperate"]

[Text] Kiev—At the Presidential Council, Leonid Kravchuk stated that the economic crisis in Ukraine has deepened and urged the Supreme Soviet and Cabinet of Ministers to work together to save the economy. Observers view the president's speech as another attempt to reconcile the legislature and the executive on the eve of sixth Supreme Soviet session.

As always, Leonid Makarovich's speech was noticeably calm, although he did note that his "patience is at breaking point." Among the reasons for the deterioration in the economic situation he cited the unfavorable structure of Ukraine's economy, the fact that exports exceed imports, the granting to enterprises of credits which they then use to pay their taxes, the absence of a regulating influence on state enterprises which are actually "not state enterprises but goodness knows what," and the fact that many directors receive pay several times higher than that the president's, which is banned by a Supreme Soviet resolution.

The president believes that another reason why the Ukrainian economy is marking time is the lack of a joint course between the government and the Supreme Soviet. In this regard their actions call to mind the fable of the swan, the crab, and the pike [all pulling in different directions]. In this connection, Kravchuk noted, all the barbs of popular discontent are being aimed at the president. The latest example is the recent strike by transport workers and miners. The Supreme Soviet Presidium convened and stated that the government is not working well no matter what it does and deputies should meet and replace the government. A few days later the Cabinet of Ministers issued a statement accusing the Supreme Soviet of being unfair. After that the parliament proposed working together but, Kravchuk stressed, the people know that the Supreme Soviet has condemned the government, which "failed to deal with the strike." Even though under the constitution, parliament could only "meet and talk, not make decisions."

"If people want to use the platform of this collective body to demonstrate devotion to the Ukrainian people," Kravchuk warned, "let them be guided by the Constitution." However, parliament, the president suspects, really wants to be a plenum, issue orders to all and sundry, make decisions, and be collectively responsible for everything. However, the Supreme Soviet Presidium is claiming the role of the Politburo, and the president himself, on his own admission, has made efforts in that direction. However, now the situation has changed and it is time to stop and find out who is most to blame if "the state really worries us."

Meanwhile, Ukraine's independence is under threat, the president believes. On the one hand, there is economic chaos at home, and on the other, outside the country, you can see an attempt to draw the independent state into a confederation. Some politicians—and here the Ukrainian president clearly hinted at his Kazakh counterpart—"have grasped the mood of people who claim that life was better under Brezhnev" and are already calling for a confederation to be rebuilt and common structures to be created. These are populist assurances, Kravchuk concluded, and anyone who makes them is simply trying to be a national hero.

By all accounts, Ukraine will follow its own course and view matters in terms of the deepening of democracy. Lest the Supreme Soviet quarrel violently with the Cabinet of Ministers again, the president reminded the audience that nothing lasts forever.... The Supreme Soviet has only two things left to do: adopt the constitution and adopt the law on new elections. Then it should thank the people and go.

The government has also been promised a major reform in the near future. At the moment, Kravchuk has urged them to work together: "Everyone should pull his weight."

Experts Predict Large Increase in Unemployment

LD0609143792 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 6 Sep 92

[Summary] The Novyny television agency reports that Ukrainian experts have concluded that there will be no positive improvements in the economy of Ukraine in the second half of 1992. Unemployment will rise to between 600,000 and 900,000 people. In 1993, approximately 1.5 million people will be unemployed. At present, the worst situation is in the western regions of Ukraine, in Ivano-Frankovsk and Lvov Oblasts. Approximately 15 percent of those without work are concentrated in Donetsk and Dnepropetrovsk Oblasts.

Official Details Work of Next Council Session

LD0709142492

[Editorial Report] Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian at 0500 GMT on 6 September carries an 11-minute interview with Vasyl Durdinets, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Durdinets describes the upcoming sixth session of parliament as difficult. He calls it an "ascent where each next step will demand more strength and an even tighter rallying of people's deputies around the leading and single aim of everyone—the building of a new Ukraine." Durdinets states that the last session of the parliament confirmed the fundamentals aspects of the national economic policy. It passed a number of laws on providing a legal guarantee for economic reforms, social protection of the population, and strengthening state power and management. He adds that the legal basis for introducing Ukraine's own credit, financial and currency system, the armed forces, and measures for the protection of the environment is in the process of being completed.

The sixth session will continue this work by including 99 urgent items on the agenda, said Durdinets. In his view, the session's priority will be the consideration of economic issues amounting to 23 draft laws. There are 11 draft laws dealing with the social protection of the population and an equivalent number dealing with health care and environmental protection. He added that the question of legislation dealing with state political building, the judicial system, and law and order is very important, and that 27 documents fall into this category.

Durdinets regards the discussion of the new draft constitution as one of the most important tasks ahead, followed by the draft law on the Cabinet of Ministers. Draft laws on regulations of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, permanent commissions, and on the status of people's deputies of Ukraine will be submitted for their second reading, states Durdinets. He adds that in the economic sphere, emphasis is to be placed on laws on demonopolization and privatization, on fundamental directions of the economic policy within the process of implementing currency reform, payment of salaries, and the procedure for resolving labor disputes, which must take into account the interests of the people. In this connection, he says that a special program of demonopolization of the economy will be worked out.

Referring to the recent strikes in Ukraine he says: "Considerable improvement is required in the transport policy, where laws must operate which reliably protect not only the workers in the transport system, but also the passengers, who under certain conditions can become unwilling hostages of the actions of political extremists. Unfortunately, such a situation occurred recently when passengers became victims of the anarchic actions of the leaders of the coordinating council of free trade unions. These people included children, women, and the elderly, not to mention the colossal material losses this strike inflicted on the economy of Ukraine. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine declared that these actions were against the people and inhumane toward the citizens of Ukraine and those of other states. The Presidium demanded the application of urgent measures for an immediate end to the strike and calling the organizers to account in accordance with current legislation."

Durdinets further elaborates that the draft law on the press and information will be given a second reading.

Parties Unite To Form 'New Crimea' Organization

AU0909164392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] The creation of the republican branch of the Nova Ukrayina [New Ukraine] Association in the Crimea ended in a constituent assembly. The Crimean organization has taken on the name Novyy Krym [New Crimea]. It has united the Crimean branch of the Party of Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine, the Sevastopol branch of the United Social Democratic Party, and the Feodosiya and Yevpatoriya organizing committees of Nova Ukrayina. The Nova Ukrayina members have elected Andriy Shevtsov, candidate of physico-mathematical sciences, as their chairman.

The participants in the Novyy Krym constituent assembly have unanimously supported the idea of an all-Ukrainian referendum on confidence in Ukraine's Supreme Council and government, and have also presented the Supreme Council of the Crimea with a demand that the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea be brought into line with the main law of Ukraine.

Trade Unions Issue Statement on Property Issues

LD0909170392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] The Council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, the Coordination Council of the United Trade Union, the Council of the Federation of the Trade Union of Cooperatives and Other Forms of Free Enterprise, the Council of the Trade Union of Railwaymen and Transport Construction Workers, the Council of the

Trade Union of Employees of the Armed Forces, the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Employees of the Academy of Sciences, and the Trade Union Association of the Civil Aviation Aircrews have signed a declaration on the property of Ukrainian trade unions. They declare that the property of Ukraine's trade unions, including property used for sanatoria and health resorts, tourism, and excursions, sports and physical culture, establishments of culture and education, and other units, are the indivisible collective property of trade unions which cannot be given to or used by other owners, or put at the diposal of other owners. It cannot be privatized either.

All trade unions have equal rights to property. In the meantime, the declaration stresses, attempts to take possession of trade union property by state administration and government bodies, public organizations, and individuals do not stop. Trade union associations reject all attempts by state and local government, administrative bodies, entrepreneurs, and other juridical and physical entities, to take possession of trade union property. It is open to other trade union associations of Ukraine to join the declaration.

Increase in Number of Joint Ventures Noted

LD0809203892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] The number of joint ventures in Ukraine has increased 1.5 times over as compared with the first six months of the previous year. According to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, there are about 400 joint enterprises functioning in Ukraine. They export products to the sum of three billion 100,000,000 convertible rubles. [figure as received] As a result of positive changes due to the stimulation of foreign economic activities, 173 representations of foreign firms from 37 countries have been registered in the republic. German businessmen, who have already opened 22 representations, seem to be more interested in establishing business relations with Ukraine than their colleagues from other countries. Second as to the number of joint ventures [as heard] are Polish businessmen, and following them are Austrian and North American entrepreneurs.

Figures on Half-Year Exports, Debt Released

LD0709175792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 7 Sep 92

[Text] The TV and radio agency Noviny reports with reference to competent sources that as a result of export of goods, works, and services, nearly $28 million have been received by the state monetary fund of Ukraine during the first six months of the current year; $16.7 million from this sum have been spent for the needs of the National Bank of Ukraine and more than $6 million for servicing the so-called credit lines which were opened by foreign states for Ukraine. It would be appropriate to remind here that this year our state must pay $1.8 billion of the debt of the former USSR.

Belarus

Prime Minister Decries Corruption, Crime

OW0909212792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing the session of the Presidium of the republic's Council of Ministers on September 8, the Prime Minster Vyacheslav Kebich declared that at present the main aim of the government is the fight with corruption in the structures of power and with crime on the whole.

Kebich sharply criticized the Belarusian Internal Minister Vladimir Yegorov who, according to the Premier, "reports to me with a clear joy: if earlier the growth of crime in the republic constituted 18% now it is only 15%". The Premier said that the officers and generals of militia subordinated to Yegorov repeatedly appealed to the head of the government to release their chief from his post.

The head of the Cabinet read an official note of the republican prosecutor's office stating the facts of abuse of authorities and complicity to different commercial structures to the damage of the state by several high officials in the center and at places [sentence as received]. For example, about 60% of leaders at various levels in the Gomel province of Belarus cooperate with commercial organization using their official opportunities. The Premier accused of corruption a group of generals of the Belarusian Armed Forces headed by the commander of the Air Defense Army Lieutenant General Osmolovskiy who was dismissed from his post by a special order.

The official note of the prosecutor's office cites the facts about abuses of one of the leaders of the Belarusian State Committee on oil products who sold lubricants to a private Latvian firm though the republic itself experiences shortages of these materials.

People who know the Premier rather well and for a long time say he is a calm and soft man but he was full of indignation when he learned that in the majority of cases the corruption elements can not be brought either to criminal or to administrative responsibility because the current legislation does not allow this. Besides many experts confirm that a significant part leaders suspected in corruption are deputies of different level and they are practically not vulnerable to justice.

Having expressed a number of sharp remarks in respect to the activity of the Supreme Soviet, the head of the Cabinet of Minsters declared that he will put forward this issue on the next session of the parliament scheduled for October 20 this year.

Shushkevich Holds Talks With CIS Forces Chief

LD0909185392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk September 9 TASS—Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of Joint CIS Armed Forces, paid a visit to the Belarusian parliament on Wednesday [9 September] at the invitation of the Belarusian Parliamentary Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich.

Shaposhnikov and Shushkevich discussed problems of mutual interest and discussed in detail issues of the reduction of armed forces and the withdrawal of strategic troops from Belarus.

Drought Claims Large Amounts of Flax Crop

LD1009021492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 9 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Belarus' gold mine crop—flax—will not be bringing in big profits for the republic this year. Drought has destroyed more than 12,000 hectares of the crop this year. The yield from the remaining area is down one-third over normal figures. However, low yields alone are not the only reason that republic flax growers will not be rushing to sell their expensive product outside the republic. Russia alone owes the industry more than 400 million rubles.

Opposition Stages Battle Anniversary Celebration

LD0909161392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Minsk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the initiative of the opposition, the Belarus People's Front and the Association of Soldiers [Obyedineniye Armeytsev], a day of military glory has been celebrated in Minsk.

The celebration has been timed to coincide with the anniversary of the defensive battle of our ancestors near Orsha. The victory was in 1514, when 30,000 warriors of Belarus overcame the 80,000 strong army of the Muscovite prince, who was trying to encroach on their freedom and independence.

Not everyone has taken a clear line on the celebration of this date. The collegium of the Defense Ministry, in its address to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet and Government, saw in this event, the possibility of increased confrontation and schism in the army.

Two days ago, on Independence Square, students of military colleges were taking their oath, and today officers of the reserve have come here to take an oath of allegiance to Belarus and the state of Belarus.

[Begin recording] [Statkevich, not further identified] First, I have to say that you should not reduce today's events to just the oath. We have a holiday here today, and this holiday includes the symbolic act of taking the oath.

[Correspondent] Insinuations have crept through in the press that this is virtually the start of creating your own Belarusian army, separate from the armed forces of the Republic of Belarus.

[Statkevich] That is certainly not so. The officers who are taking the oath here serve in the armed forces and I hope will continue to serve there, if the Defense Ministry does not throw us out of the armed forces because we have taken an oath of allegiance to the Belarusian state and people. [end recording]

Moldova

Commission Propses End to Dniester Emergency

LD1009114492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Anatoliy Kholodyuk]

[Text] Tiraspol September 10 TASS—The joint controlling commission in the Dniester region of Moldova proposed that the state of emergency be lifted in the region.

At a meeting on Thursday [10 September] the commission also decided to create joint groups which will provide for the normal functioning of the railway traffic. Checkpoints will be established on the roads leading to Tiraspol to prevent the flow of arms.

Customs control will be introduced in the whole of the Dniester region to prevent the outflux of food and consumer goods. A border guard unit will be also created.

Although no more military clashes have been registered in the region, the use of firearms does not decrease, according to military commandant of Tiraspol Mikhail Bergman.

Hooliganism has been flourishing of late among the military. Drunk military personnel often attack civilians and use firearms "for purposes liable to criminal punishment", he added.

Military property is being illegally sold. Three "Ural" cross-country heavy trucks were sold by the command of a military unit to a small-scale venture in the Russian city of Perm, according to Bergman.

Peacekeeping Forces Being Cut in Bendery

LD1009094492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] On 9 September a session of the joint commission for observation of the fulfilment of the cease-fire was held in Bendery. According to a report from Expreskhronika, it has been decided to cut down the number of peacekeeping forces in the northern security zone. An accord has been reached on the resumption of passenger transport from today between Bendery and Chisinau.

Agreement on Dniester Government Structure

LD0909104492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Report by Gennadiy Varfolomeyev on the Dniester Supreme Soviet session in Tiraspol on 8 September]

[Text] The Moldovan, Russian, and Ukrainian languages are recognized as being equal means for interethnic cooperation in accordance with historical and cultural traditions which have taken shape in the Dniester region. These three languages are being granted equal status. The state guarantees language sovereignty for its citizens on the territory of the Dniester region regardless of their origin, social status, and material circumstances, or of what race or nation to which they belong. The Cyrillic alphabet will be used in the written Moldovan language. In conformity with the adopted law, the Dniester region is creating conditions for its citizens to study their native language and languages spoken by other people of CIS countries. After long discussions, the session examined and upheld the structure of the Dniester region government. It will comprise 12 ministries, five state committees, and seven directorates. Heads of these structures will be confirmed at the next session.

Popular Front Continues Attacks on President Snegur

LD1009111592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1038 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau September 10 TASS—Periodicals of the right-wing of the Moldovan Popular Front, whose main purpose is to merge Moldova with Romania, continue to attack President Mircea Snegur, claiming that he heads the national party bureaucrats.

The weekly "TARA" claims that the Moldovan president, who resorts to crafty methods typical for the communist system, has launched a well camouflaged struggle against the nation. His main purpose, it alleges, is to establish a protectorate of the Russian colonial empire on Moldovan territory, dominated by colonists. According to the newspaper, Snegur took good care to strengthen his rears. All the privileges enjoyed by the non-indigenous nationalities are being preserved even in present-day conditions under the pretext of observing the rights of national minorities. The

Moldovan president has left in office many former party officials. "By doing this," the newspaper claims, "Mircea Snegur has consolidated the communist regime in Moldova and has paved the way to the strengthening of his personal dictatorship."

"Without consulting the parliament and the people," the paper notes, "Snegur has signed a document on Moldova's accession to the Commonwealth of Independent States, thereby making the republic politically and economically dependent on Russia."

Kazakhstan

Official on Grain Prices, Sales to Russia

LD0909120592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Interview with Deputy Agriculture Minister K.K. Tyulebekov by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is the price of grain? In Kazakhstan, to judge by the labor expended, it is high. After all, without a lot of work, the harvest will not be very big. It has turned out to be rich on all the republic's fields, like here on the fields of its largest grain oblast, Kustanay. However, there is another price—the purchasing price. Having more of the most valuable hard wheat than all the other republics of the former Union, Kazakhstan has set the lowest prices for it—10,000 rubles a tonne. For comparison, it is twice as expensive in Russia. How can the domestic market be protected in this situation? How can profits be retained, which this year should be enjoyed by the farmers themselves? These questions were the main ones in a conversation between Nazarbayev and villagers.

[Tyulebekov] Our original price for grain was set at 8,000 rubles. Grain will be released after 1 November, and at prices which we will agree with those to whom we sell.

[Correspondent] How about with Russia?

[Tyulebekov] For the time being they are asking 3-6 million tonnes of grain from us. We will try and reach agreement over this period, at exchanges, and determine prices in mutual relations within Russia, and we will sell at the optimum prices that obtain at the exchanges.

[Correspondent] Tell me, the customs service also has to play its role in this, doesn't it?

[Tyulebekov] Yes, by presidential decree the export of grain is prohibited, grain will only be sold by license, at state quotas, and with the permission of the president.

Nazarbayev Views Economic Situation

LD0909175192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0224 GMT 9 Sep 92

[by KAZTAG special correspondent Anatoliy Shevelev]

[Text] Economics, like politics, is the art of the possible. President Nursultan Nazarbayev heard this comparison drawn while he was in Kustanay oblast visiting the Kustanay Business Cooperation Association.

Nobody anticipated that in just three years an ordinary construction cooperative would become one of the republic's largest associations producing and supplying cement. It now produces 100,000 tonnes every year. Just recently the association began production of reinforced concrete goods. The main point is that it does so for less than half the price of similar goods produced by state enterprises. For example a wall panel produced here costs 5,000 rubles [R], while one produced by those who held the monopoly until recently costs R12,000.

Nursultan Abishevich had high praise for the enterprising business people whose goods sell like hot cakes. You are quite different from the get-rich-quick people [nuvorish] who take advantage of shortages and charge the earth for their services, he said in a conversation with workers and specialists at the association. State enterprises are doing likewise.

We really have mastered the ABC's of the market and are overtaking our competitors, replied Boris Vasiliyev, chairman of the association. To compete with us, you have to optimize the use of material resources, improve quality of goods, and reduce prices. Otherwise you go bankrupt.

That is the main deciding aim of our economic policy, the head of state stressed. Let us have more producers of the widest variety of goods. Let them compete like market traders. The more goods, the lower the price.

Nursultan Nazarbayev also noted that with mass support from the population, this method may become most productive. In the end it will make it possible to saturate the market with various goods and products. However, for this to happen entrepreneurs must have freedom of maneuver and support.

Our state needs rich people, the president said. Why? They pay more taxes. Thanks to them, the republic has more funds to protect the less well-off sections of society. That is why it is so important to speed up privatization. At the same time we are encouraging state enterprises to work efficiently. There is no limit on pay for workers and specialists, but only on condition that productivity and profits increase. For an increase in pay which is not backed by goods is of no benefit to the population. Enterprises put up prices and the people who have just had an increase in pay end up paying more to other producers but do not improve their standard of living at all.

The president had similar conversations at Kustanay diesel engine plant, where he saw the new goods produced by the engine builders and their partner, the Uralsk motor vehicle plant, the "Urallaz."

Of course the increased fuel prices will be reflected in the cost of your products which will become more expensive, Nursultan Nazarbayev said. Prices will increase somewhat for other goods as well, including food, for which prices will have to be released. However, I can assure you that bread and milk will remain the cheapest. We are seeking funds to cover the necessary subsidies so that bread and milk prices do not shoot up.

The head of state talked about the measures being taken to increase resources of food in short supply, primarily sugar. A large quantity is being bought in China and Turkey. Ukraine will also supply some to Kazakhstan.

Equipment for producing food for children is being installed in Alma-Ata. This factory will help eliminate the shortage of this important product which is in great demand.

The president was asked about his position on conflicts in the hot spots of the former Union. It is clear, he replied. It is that there must very soon be a solution to problems by peaceful means, through talks. The results in practice of the unhealthy ambitions of politicians are eloquently highlighted by the fact that 5,000 people have died in Nagorno-Karabakh this year, 5,000 people who wanted to live and who did not need war.

Conversations about urgent matters and problems which must be resolved continued on the breadgrain fields. On the first day of his stay in the oblast, the president visited several state farms in Kustanayskiy rayon.

Official Clarifies Russian Military Accords

LD0909214192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0224 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Brief, and in many respects conflicting, reports in Kazakhstan's newspapers and on television and radio about the signing of several agreements between the Defence Ministery of our republic and that of the Russian Federation have raised quite a few questions for servicemen, questions which have not been answered by the very sketchy articles. These reports could probably not have been otherwise, since journalists from our republic were not admitted to the talks. All sorts of rumors and conjectures arose among servicemen because certain publications reported that as many as nine or 10 agreements had been signed.

A KAZTAG correspondent asked K.S. Serikbayev, head of the Defense Department in the apparatus of the president and Cabinet of Ministers to explain this situation and describe the true results of the talks.

Let me say at once, noted Kim Serikbayevich, that only two agreements were concluded during the talks. Reports on the signing of a large number of documents are fantasy. In fact, a whole package of documents was prepared for examination, in particular, documents on the joint use of testing grounds. However a joint decision was taken that such agreements have to be signed at a higher level. That is why the package of these documents was passed on for examination by the top leadership of the republics.

However, the two agreements which do exist are of fundamental importance. They will play a significant role in military relations between the two friendly states.

It has emerged that the first of them concerns the training of officers in military training establishments. What does it say? It is no secret that for various reasons the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan are short of military specialists. Our republic does not have military training establishments apart from two higher academies which train commanders for all-purpose troops and border guards. However, the army needs pilots, tank drivers, communications experts, and many other specialist commanders.

In view of their coinciding defense interests and the aspiration to preserve the common military-strategic area, the sides recognized the need for joint development of existing systems for training officers to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces of Russia and Kazakhstan.

The Russian side undertook to train representatives of our republic in its military academies and establishments, but we owe our partners nothing. Over 30 lads from oblasts in the Russian Federation are training in our border guards' institution this year. [passage omitted] I want to stress that the sides agreed to preserve the existing procedure for doing military service. [passage omitted] The agreement envisages that servicemen will be free to choose where to live when they are released into the reserves. [passage omitted]

Proposal for Asian Version of CSCE

MK0709120192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Sep 92 p 3

[Report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Kazakhstan has proposed that participants in the May meeting in Ashgabat assemble once again, in Alma-Ata in October or November.

The heads of seven Asian states (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Kyrgyzstan) are being invited to discuss an idea for creating a new collective security system in Asia.

As a NEGA correspondent learned from sources in the Turkmen Foreign Ministry, it was decided to base the idea of forming a Conference on Cooperation and Confidence Building Measures in Asia on the principles of the work of the CSCE and to make use of this organization's structure when creating their own mechanism.

The new meeting's initiators hold the view that the Asian collective security system must not be exclusive in character in order to make it possible for other states in the region—in particular, Russia, China, India, and Mongolia—to join it.

Armenia's Hovannisian Sends Note on Forming Ties

OW0809150092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 08 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, M. Chernukha, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [7 September] Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov received a letter from his Armenian counterpart Raffi Hovannisian expressing Armenia's intention to establish diplomatic relations with Kazakhstan.

As DP [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent was told at Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry, earlier, on August 27, at a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, Hovannisian had a conversation with Suleymenov during which the two men discussed, apart from the ways to settle the military conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations between their countries.

Foreign Lawyers Examine Draft Constitution

OW0909192792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The draft of Kazakhstan's new Constitution meets world standards in general, Professor Peter Germer, of Denmark, told a news conference in Alma-Ata on Wednesday. He led a delegation of the international organization "Lawyers for Human Rights", which studied the draft of Kazakhstan's fundamental law.

At the same time Prof. Germer said that some articles of the draft were "worded vaguely" and allowed of loose interpretation. He believes that Kazakhstan's lawmakers should not have focused on such international documents as the General Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Accords and the Paris Charter. This makes the constitution difficult to understand, because "most of Kazakhstan's people are unfamiliar with those agreements".

Interviewed by IF [INTERFAX] Prof. Germer said that delegates from the "Lawyers for Human Rights" had had meetings with government officials and leaders of political parties in Kazakhstan. He also said that in the near future they would formulate their conclusion concerning the draft constitution and submit it to the government and mass media of Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev Receives German Ministry Official

LD0909083892 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0220 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Nursultan Nazarbayev has received Horst Waffenschmidt, parliamentary state secretary at the German Interior Ministry. During their conversation they discussed matters concerning the forthcoming visit to Germany by our head of state. In particular they examined the drafts of bilateral agreements on trade and economic cooperation which are to be concluded in Bonn. They also touched upon the problems of Germans living in Kazakhstan. The president confirmed his adherence to the position previously expressed by the republic's leadership on the need to formulate joint approaches to resolving these issues and to expand the German business presence in Kazakhstan.

Taking part in the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister Myrzatay Dzholdasbekov, Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov, and Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Shumov.

Mongolian Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD0909215192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1210 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] Erdeniyn Byambazhav, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Kazakhstan, presented his credentials to Vice President Yerik Asanbayev on 8 September.

During the conversation which ensued, the parties expressed their aspiration to promote in every way, the development of bilateral political, economic, and cultural relations. In particular it was stressed that in past years Kazakhstan and Mongolia have always been linked by strong friendship, which must now be actively developed, but on a new footing.

Decree Appoints New Baykonur Space Center Chief

PM0909105792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin under the "Military Diary" rubric: "New Chief for Baykonur Cosmodrome"]

[Text] By decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Major General Aleksey Aleksandrovich Shumilin has been appointed the new chief of the Baykonur cosmodrome. He took part in the launch of the first Soviet spacecraft, piloted by Yuriy Gagarin. Recently he was the cosmodrome's deputy chief in charge of scientific research and experimental work. In 1979 he was awarded the USSR State Prize for science and technology and in 1987 was awarded the title Hero of Socialist Labor.

Kyrgyzstan

Presidential Adviser on German Relations

OW0909213092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The PB [Presidential Bulletin] has learned more details about the recent confidential talks between President Akayev and the German Federal Government's official in charge of the affairs of Germans abroad, Horst Waffenschmidt.

The president's adviser Leonid Levitin who took part in the meeting told IF [INTERFAX] that the German guest explored possibilities of establishing a German national-territorial district in Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyz side noted in this connection that it will be difficult to implement this project because Kyrgyzstan is populated by many other ethnic groups.

Speaking about the continuing emigration of Germans from Kyrgyzstan Levitin said that the German community looks rather pessimistically into its future in Kyrgyzstan and that they are concerned about the grave economic situation and the prospect of general switch over to the Kyrgyz language. Levitin does not think that the rights of ethnic minorities, including Germans, are being curbed. To prove this he referred to Akayev's decrees on the establishment of national-cultural districts (PB's issue 155, September 8). The Kyrgyz authorities believe that the revival of German culture, national spirit and entrepreneurship would be welcome as Germany's help to Kyrgyzstan.

Horst Waffenschmidt told Akayev, however, that Germany will hardly render help to the German districts, given the prospect of their being deserted in the long run. Levitin quoted him as saying that Germany is interested in maintaining the German diaspora because it might become a strong bridge to Central Asia.

Unfortunately, said Levitin, the German self-government bodies - the Council of the Germans of Kyrgyzstan, the branch of the Revival Society and the German Cultural Center - do not display any initiative, although no one interferes with their work. They are divided and inert, and do not use the available opportunities.

During the talks Horst Waffenschmidt backed President Akayev's idea of establishing a German technical college in Bishkek in which instruction will be given by German teachers. Such a college might become an educational center for the Germans of Kyrgyzstan and other CIS states. He also supported the idea of broadcasting German TV programmes to Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. The talks also dealt with the possibility of opening Germany's embassy in Bishkek.

Tajikistan

Few Know Nabiyev Whereabouts; Safety Guaranteed

LD0909125692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1221 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by Alisher Khodzhayev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Unfortunately, even this great holiday, Independence Day, failed to stop the warring parties. I phoned Kurgan-Tyube this morning and shelling is continuing there.

Nabiyev's present location is known only to a very narrow circle of people. I must say the following, however: His safety is guaranteed. It is guaranteed by the accords signed on 7 September at the airport when he tried to fly to Khodzhent. It is guaranteed by the so-called Dushanbe Youth. That is what I can say, in brief, about the president.

Opposition Said Preparing Assault on Kalininabad

LD0809215892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 8 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Presidium of the parliament and Government of Tajikistan today issued an appeal to the people in which they assumed all responsibility for governing the Republic. The leadership of Tajikistan has called upon the population to refrain from strikes, demonstrations, and meetings.

While the leaders of the Republic are making statements about the partial normalization of the situation in Kurgan-Tyube oblast, the leaders of the opposition groups—according to reports from Russian correspondents at the locations—are getting ready for a decisive assault on Kalininabad and are hastily forming a national guard regiment. This regiment will have the task of blockading all of Kulyab oblast and the Vakhsh valley.

The Kulyab detachments under the command of Santak are being defeated, surrendering settlement after settlement almost every day. The Russian regiment deployed in the Lomonosovo settlement is in an extremely dangerous situation. The servicemen still have to guard the enormous arsenals and be prepared for an assault—which is expected, according to some reports—on the garrison with several thousand refugees on its territory at the moment.

The new powers in the oblast are not allowing relatives to remove dead bodies from the streets, are refusing to distribute bread to the refugees, and are not allowing them to leave the territory of the Russian military cantonment. This is reported in today's issue of IZVESTIYA.

Commenting on prospects for developments in Tajikistan, a number of observers have not ruled out the possibility of the conflict escalating along the north-south divide. The northern tribal clans played the dominant role during the existence of the USSR. Now they are leaning toward creating a secular state and are against the resurgence of Islam. They are confronted by the poorest oblasts in southern Tajikistan—homeland of ex-President Rakhman Nabiyev—where the headquarters of the popular Kulyab movement is situated. This movement is led by 64-year-old Santak Safarov, a man with several criminal convictions.

CIS Border Troops Arrive Upon Leadership Request

LD1009105592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 10 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe September 10 TASS—At the request of the Tajik leadership, Russian border guards, deployed in that republic, have been reinforced by one thousand troops from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Kazakhstan.

The 2,000-kilometres-long Tajik-Afghan border has been violated repeatedly in the past four months by citizens of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. There were many armed clashes between the border guards and the violators, who tried to cross the border in search for weapons in Afghanistan. There were nine such clashes during the first week of September. Forty violators of the border were arrested. Large quantities of automatic weapons, ammunition and grenades were confiscated from them.

As noted by officials of the operational department of the Central Asian border area, the population of border villages approve of the measures taken to strengthen the southern border, believing they will help stabilise the socio-political factor in Tajikistan.

Russian Officers Cited on Situation

PM1009094792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin and Aleksandr Pelts: "Tajikistan: Still a Long Way to Stabilization"]

[Text] Last weekend probably did not make any substantial changes to the overall situation in the republic. Although many news agencies note the relative lull in Dushanbe, the situation there remains extremely tense.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has learned that hostilities are continuing in the region of Kurgan-Tyube. The city itself is practically in the hands of the opposition. However, things are relatively calm there following the recent bloody clashes. Shooting has been observed in the environs of the Kuybyshev and Budennyy State Farms.

The leadership of the Russian garrison stationed in Kurgan-Tyube is holding intensive talks with the leaders of the armed grouping operating in the city. An agreement has been reached that the regiment's territory will not be fired upon.

Lieutenant Colonel Yevgeniy Merkulov, commander of this regiment, reported in conversation with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent that one of the armed groups fraudulently captured an armored personnel carrier, whose crew was guarding the nitrogen fertilizer plant. Talks are now being held on the return of the armored personnel carrier. It has not yet been used in fighting.

The regiment's commander declared that there have been no losses among personnel or members of servicemen's families during the conflict in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. Just one ensign has been slightly injured by a stray bullet.

Russian border guards are also experiencing difficult days now. We have been told at the Russian Federation Border Guards Press Bureau that 19 violators, who put up armed resistance to a detail, were arrested at the weekend just in the region of the Pyandzh Border Detachment. Two violators were killed in an exchange of fire. A sum total of 20 firearms and 15,000 rounds of ammunition were confiscated from violators of the border regime.

Border guards note with alarm the growth in mass violations of the border. During these days, for example, a group of 30 local residents crossed into Afghanistan. Approximately the same number of armed people made an attempt to get through from Afghanistan.

Col. Igor Kharkovchuk, deputy chief of an operational group of the Central Asian Border District, told our correspondent that "innovations" are appearing in the actions of violators. In the sector adjacent to Kumsangirskiy Rayon border details discovered a mined section of a gap or passage made by violators in the technical structures. A home-made explosive device had been used. Specialists had to make a considerable effort to neutralize the lethal "surprise."

Muslim Leader Approves of Nabiyev's Resignation

OW0909141992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1228 GMT 09 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kadi (Muslim leader) of Tajikistan, Akbar Turajonzoda, believes President Rakhman Nabiyev's resignation "will on the whole have a positive effect on the situation in the republic." In an interview given to our correspondent in Dushanbe yesterday, the Kadi said, "Such a weak-willed and inert person is naturally unable to control the situation." He thinks Tajikistan should form its own armed forces "able to put an end to the armed conflict in Kurgan-Tyube Region." In his opinion current developments in Tajikistan are similar to those in Afghanistan.

"The Tajiks still don't think of themselves as a single nation," the Kadi said, "and put local interests above national ones." He hopes the World Forum of Tajiks, which has opened in Dushanbe today, will help "consolidate the nation."

Iskandarov Addresses International Tajik Forum

OW0909200192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1804 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan will remain loyal to principals of interstate relations established in agreements with CIS countries and, as first priority, with Russia. This statement was made by the republic's acting President, Parliament Chairman Akbarsho Iskandarov, at the opening of the International Tajik Forum Wednesday [9 September] in Dushanbe. The development of ties with Persian-speaking countries, such as Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey, is a priority of Tajik foreign policy, he said.

Mr. Iskandarov denied reports by various media organizations that Islamic fundamentalists in Afghanistan and other countries in the region bear influence on the situation in Tajikistan.

He called on "people of all nationalities who have left the republic" in connection with the complicated political situation return "because Tajikistan still remains their homeland".

Representatives of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan who spoke at the forum mentioned their countries' intentions to cooperate in the establishment of the Tajik state.

Iskandarov Talks With Uzbek's Karimov on Phone

MK0909112392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 3

[Unattributed report under "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Tajikistan"]

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman Akbarsho Iskandarov held a telephone conversation yesterday morning.

As Akbarsho Iskandarov told your NEGA correspondent, questions of ending the bloodshed in the south of Tajikistan and opening up the railroad through Uzbek territory into Tajikistan were broached during the conversation. The question of renewing air routes from Tajikistan into Uzbekistan was also discussed (all eight airports in Uzbekistan which received aircraft from Tajikistan were closed in April).

Islam Karimov reported that 20 vehicle-loads of humanitarian aid have been dispatched from Uzbekistan to Kurgan-Tyube Oblast in Tajikistan. As your NEGA correspondent reports, the situation in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast is now being normalized.

Decree Restricts Outgoing Information, Video

LD0909155992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our correspondents have reported that the chairman of the Tajik Television and Radio Company has issued a decree according to which all transfer of information and video footage, without exception, beyond the territory of the republic will be done only with the permission of the chairman until the situation in the republic becomes stable. Well, no such permission has been given today.

Turkmenistan

PRC Envoy Presents Credentials; Discusses Ties

LD0909162792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 8 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] PRC Ambassador to Turkmenistan Cheng Zhensheng presented his credentials to President Niyazov today. During the conversation that took place, emphasis was laid on the need to continue to broaden political, economic, and cultural links between the two countries. In particular, the Chinese side is interested in speeding up the construction of a railway branch line from Sarakhs to Mashhad, which will become an integral part of the trans-Asian main line from Istanbul to Beijing, and the construction of the Ashgabat international airport at (Chandebil), the nearest staging post on the way from China to the countries of the Near East. [Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1735 GMT on 9 September in a similar report adds: "Cheng Zhensheng stressed that China would like the construction of the Tejen-Sarakhs railway line and the international airport in Ashgabat to be completed as soon as possible."]

The PRC is prepared to take part in the joint construction of enterprises in the light and processing industries on the territory of the republic, but the ambassador noted that these projects will only be feasible if Turkmenistan has no relations at all with Taiwan.

The president was handed an invitation to visit China. It was accepted, and the visit is scheduled for the end of November.

Pharmaceuticals Plant To Stop Exporting

PM0809104992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Report by E. Zapolskaya and B. Mamedov in Ashgabat; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Zapolskaya] Today not just the warehouses but also all the production premises of the Ashgabat chemical and pharmaceutical plant are literally chockablock with finished output. Valerian tincture, camphor spiritus, iodine and capsicum tincture, Vishnevskiy liniment—this is not the full list of the medicines which have accumulated here. Why is this?

[B. Kurbanov, deputy director of the "Turkmenderman" science-and-production association] The plant is owed

around 100 million rubles at present. That is to say, we have shipped out our output without receiving any money.

[Zapolskaya] As a result, the plant has decided to discontinue shipments outside the republic. In October the plant will start producing the anti-inflammatory and analgesic ointments "Viprotex" and "Viprocutan," which are based on snake poison.

Who can guarantee that the new drugs will soon arrive in CIS pharmacies and hospitals? [end recording]

[Announcer] Allow me to add that pharmacies are stocked with foreign drugs while it is impossible to obtain our most popular treatments. It has to be admitted however, that a 10-tablet packet of the renowned Bayer Aspirin costs more than 200 rubles.

Uzbekistan

Advanced Technology Yields Increased Harvest

LD0909185892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Svyatoslav Finyutin]

[Text] Tashkent September 9 TASS—The bumper crops of grain were gathered in Uzbekistan: The procurement of barley and wheat increased by 240 per cent as compared with the same period last year. Experts from the republic's Agriculture Ministry explain this not so much by favourable weather conditions as by the introduction of advanced technologies of grain cultivation everywhere. Land tillers were to supply to the state 190 thousand tonnes of grain. Meanwhile, they delivered to the state over 1.5 million tonnes of grain, including 400 thousand tonnes of wheat. This will enable Uzbekistan to buy less grain from the CIS countries and almost fully to supply farms with seeds for next year.

Nonaligned Movement Admits Uzbekistan

LD0409161792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 3 Sep 92

[Text] The Republic of Uzbekistan has been officially admitted into the Nonaligned Movement. A report to this effect reached Tashkent from the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, where a regular conference of the heads of states and governments of this authoritative international organization is now being held. It is noteworthy that this development coincides with the celebration of the first anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence.

Karimov Abolishes Oil Products Supply Committee

OW0909220592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov has abolished the state committee on oil products supply. The decree of the President points out that this step has been undertaken "to bring in order the process of selling oil products and to improve the control system of the branch". The document attracts attention to the fact that the republic is forced to export annually almost 80% of oil from the CIS countries where the prices for oil are being increased permanently.

The decree points out that "facts of abuse, misappropriation, and sabotage found out in State Committee on oil products are completely inadmissible" in view of the current situation.

Abolishing this structure, Karimov ordered to form an Uzbek state stock society on oil products on the basis of the committee's territorial branches which will organize its activity on the principles of self-management and cost-accounting.

The decree charges the successor of the abolished committee with the responsibility "for timely and uninterrupted supply of the national economy and the republic's population with oil products".

Sources close to the President told "IF" [INTERFAX] that "trading will assist in introduction of sound market relations in the sphere - with precise control for every operation and improvement of technical means of transportation, storage, and selling of oil products".

Tajik Refugees Refused Entry Into Country

OW0909200292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF [INTERFAX] has found out from sources close to the Uzbek government that the the republic's regional Khakim's or heads of administration of those regions which lie on the border with Tajikistan have received instructions from the republic's leadership not to accept Tajik refugees and to use all methods available to ensure that they go back. Also indicated was the danger that the presence of these refugees on Uzbek territory might lead to a deterioration of international relations.

Government Adopts Law on Conscription

LD0609135792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 5 Sep 92

[Text] Our Tashkent correspondent reports that in the very near future, Uzbekistan is to have its own marshals, according to the law on conscription and military service that was recently adopted. In accordance with the constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, service in the armed forces is the sacred duty of all its citizens, regardless of nationality, creed, and racial origin. There are also provisions for alternative labor service. Women may also serve in the army if they so wish.

President Receives Credentials of New U.S. Envoy

OW0909195992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The US ambassador to Uzbekistan Henry Lee Clark has presented his credentials to President Islam Karimov. He also extended congratulations on behalf of President George Bush on the occasion of Uzbekistan's first independence anniversary.

The US ambassador spoke highly of Uzbekistan's achievements and said his country was prepared to "promote the further development of Uzbekistan's economy and culture in every possible way". He said that peaceful, prospering and democratic Uzbekistan was a major factor for the United States. Proceeding from mutual interests the US government is going to develop and expand cooperation with Uzbekistan in all spheres.

President Karimov expressed satisfaction with the successful development of relations with the United States. The two countries established diplomatic relations in February 1992. He said that Uzbekistan was "open to all-round cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in the internal affairs."

Constitutional Commission Discusses Draft Law

LD0509203992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Sep 92

[Text] The Constitutional Commission has discussed a draft of the main republican law at its session in Tashkent. At the session of the commission, chaired by President Islam Karimov, its members expressed the view that the new Uzbek constitution will reflect the traditions of the people and the world's democratic experience.

The draft constitution will be submitted for a nationwide discussion and then to the Uzbek parliament. Experts have informed INTERFAX that legislations of Switzerland, Portugal, Turkey, the United States, and other countries were taken into account during the drawing up of the draft.

Presidential Quarterly Press Bulletin Planned

OW0409215692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 4 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The staff of Uzbek President Islam Karimov has decided to release its own publication each quarter. It has been named "Khabarnoma" ("Press Bulletin"). In it will be published presidential decrees, important state documents, and materials and photographs relating the activities of the head of the republic.

Armenia

Turkey Said To Provide Weapons to Nakhichevan

NC0909143092 Yerevan SNARK in English 1239 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 September (SNARK)—According to the trustworthy data, the military council of the 9th Corps of the Turkish Army has decided to satisfy the request of the Nakhichevan Government to supply the Republic with the military help. The Turkish Government had already expressed its positive attitude to this problem. According to the existed data, Turkey intends to give a great number of weapons and combat materiel of Soviet production. It was received by the Turkish Army after the operation of international forces in Iraq at the beginning of 1991.

Spokesman Says Arms Aid 'Unconfirmed'

NC0909164692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] Armenian Presidential Press Secretary Ruben Shugaryan in his regular press briefing today gave concise information to reporters on important domestic and foreign developments. He touched on matters concerning the cease-fire, the Nagorno-Karabakh situation, and the Rome conference.

He then replied to reporters' questions. Asked about the reliability of reports that Turkey has expressed readiness to provide Nakhichevan with military assistance in response to Nakhichevan's request, Shugaryan replied that he also has received these reports, but at this moment a definite reply cannot be given, because these reports are unconfirmed.

CIS, Russian Aides on Turkish Aircraft Mishap

PM1009104792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandra Lugovskaya: "While the Military Thinks, Armenia's Skies Remain Undefended"]

[Text] In connection with the Armenian Foreign Ministry's protest at a Turkish military aircraft's violation of the republic's airspace IZVESTIYA turned for elucidation to the corresponding press services of the Russian Defense Ministry and the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

According to a report by A. Novikov, chief of the information department of the Russian Air Defense Forces, the Russian Air Defense Staff can neither confirm nor deny the fact of a violation of Armenian airspace by a Turkish aircraft. Nor was it recorded by the Russian border guards guarding the Armenian-Turkish border.

S. Yushkov, chief of the public information center of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command, explained that a telegram was indeed received from the duty operations officer at the Armenian Defense Ministry at 1840 on 6 September, reporting that a Turkish military aircraft had crossed the border, but along with the request for prompt measures to be taken, the location of the airspace violation was not indicated.

Curious details came to light in the course of telephone conversations with the press services. For example, the Russian Air Defense Forces in Armenia are only... 30-percent manned, and for this reason "there is no continuous radar field on the republic's border."

S. Yushkov doubted in principle whether the Turkish side could "launch" its aircraft into Armenia's airspace "under air defense missiles." It is all the more difficult to believe that the intruding aircraft could have had on board representatives of the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization]—the official organization governing international flights according to previously drawn-up flight plans and routes, through special air corridors, with specific piloting points...

IZVESTIYA managed to contact by telephone G. Petrosyan, chief of the Republic of Armenia Air Traffic Administration service, who explained that at approximately 1735 on 6 September the air traffic controller at Yerevan's Zvartnots Airport received a request from a Turkish aircraft for permission to cross the border and land at Yerevan. The controller asked on the basis of what documents the Turkish aircraft intended to cross the border and received the reply that this was an ICAO flight and that it was being made "according to plan," and there must also be a corresponding "flight plan" at Yerevan Airport. There was none in Armenia.

At IZVESTIYA's request G. Petrosyan specified that two attempts had been made to cross the border. At the moment of the request the aircraft was in the region of the Turkish population center of Igdir.

Ministry on Russian Transfer of Aircraft

NC0909172592 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry has prepared a file to present to the Russian Foreign Ministry on the fact that certain Azerbaijani officials declared during the latest trilateral talks in Alma-Ata that Russia officially handed over SU-25 and MiG-25 planes to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani and Russian authorities until recently had denied that such military hardware had been transferred to Azerbaijan.

Nation May Quit CIS if Azerbaijan Joins

OW0909203092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At today's press briefing, the Armenian President's press secretary, Ruben Shugaryan, said that, according to unconfirmed reports, Azerbaijan is planning to join the CIS at the Commonwealth's Bishkek summit on September 25. "If Azerbaijan, in its present status of aggressor state violating international law and human rights, attempts to do this, Armenia will be forced to reconsider its membership in the CIS," Shugaryan warned. However he did not think this would happen for, in his opinion, Azerbaijan would not have an easy time trying to join the CIS. There would be consultations among CIS member states on this matter, Shugaryan said.

Update on Karabakh, Border Area Clashes

NC0909170192 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the Armenian rayons on Azerbaijan's border.

Negative reports have been received from Nagorno-Karabakh. The usurping units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces have maintained their attacks and raids in Mardakertskiy [Agdere] Rayon, but the strength of their attacks has weakened. The Armenian self-defense forces once again have taken the initiative.

Azerbaijan National Army [ANA] units tried to attack [place-name indistinct], Mekhmana, and Drmbon in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the night of 7 September. The attack was preceded by a wave of artillery shelling. The Armenian self-defense forces rebuffed their attack and launched a counterattack. According to the reports we have received from the battlefields, [words indistinct]. The Azerbaijani units lost dozens of men.

Martuni and the areas around [place-name indistinct] and Machkalashen were fired on with Grad rockets and by tanks early on 8 September. [passage indistinct]

ANA units launched a new attack on Drmbon in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the night of 8 September. The superior number of enemy units forced the NKR self-defense forces to retreat temporarily from the positions they had captured in the morning.

Combat operations are continuing unabated in Nagorno-Karabakh. Fighting in the region continued last night. The Armenian self- defense forces launched counterattacks in the direction of Mekhmana and Drmbon. They successfully removed the enemy's firing positions from the two residential areas this afternoon.

The situation in Martuninskiy Rayon continues to be tense. The ANA units frequently attack and fire on the rayon with various types of arms. The enemy has been observed to be massing a large number of armed units and armored vehicles in Amiranlar at present. This can be described as preparation for a new attack.

It has been ascertained that the bodies of hundreds of Azerbaijani troops remained in various areas in Martuninskiy Rayon after the clashes that took place on 6 September. The remains of dozens of Azerbaijani troops also can be found in Mardakertskiy and Gadrutskiy Rayons. The Armenian side has appealed to the neighboring side several times to hold talks on removing the bodies, but the Azerbaijani side has not responded to the appeal for one reason or another. Obviously, the Azerbaijani officials wish to avoid a protest by the people. Many of people in Azerbaijan do not know their sons' fate. [passage indistinct]

Azerbaijani units opened fire in another part of the region last night. Thirty projectiles were fired on Gadrut and Edilli from [name indistinct] Rayon and caused damage. We have not yet received accurate information on the number of casualties.

We wish to sum up the situation in the NKR as follows: The confrontation is gradually escalating. The Azerbaijani leaders do not wish to relinquish their aggressive intentions.

We now wish to report on the incidents on Armenia's border with Azerbaijan during the past day. The facts we will focus on will convince you that Azerbaijan's leaders have no interest in peace.

Armed Azerbaijani groups in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic fired on [place-name indistinct] and Shefek in Askeranskiy and Shushinskiy Rayons with tanks and infantry combat vehicles at 1420 yesterday. The Armenian fighters were compelled to take retaliatory measures. They opened intensive fire in all directions to silence the enemy positions. The brigands were given an appropriate reply. There were no injuries on the Armenian side.

Vayk and Bardzruni in Sisian Rayon, [place-name indistinct] in Araratskiy Rayon, and [place-names indistinct] in Kapanskiy Rayon also were fired on.

Azerbaijani units violated the cease-fire agreement in other parts of the border region as well.

Official Asks States, Organizations for Observers

NC0909183092 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1200 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] Davit Shahnazaryan, people's deputy and Armenian president's plenipotentiary representative, held a news conference today. He spoke about fulfilling the Alma-Ata agreement and the protocol signed with Azerbaijan in Idzhevanskiy Rayon. We now present his statement:

[Begin Shahnazaryan recording] An agreement on halting military operations on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border was endorsed by the foreign ministers of Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Azerbaijan through the mediation of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Alma-Ata on 28 August.

Despite many Azerbaijani cease-fire violations, Armenia was inclined to confirm that in general, the cessation of military operations was holding. Prompted by this attitude, the Armenian presidential representative signed a protocol in Idzhevanskiy on 3 September, on the basis of which Armenia, in (?cooperation) with President Nazarbayev's representatives in Baku and Yerevan, was getting ready to enter into agreement on what the next moves should be.

Now it is necessary to state [word indistinct] that Azerbaijan is not complying with the responsibilities it has assumed.

We periodically have informed Asa Kozhakov, Kazakhstan presidential representative in Yerevan, about the Azerbaijani violations we have recorded. More than 80 violations have been reported so far, and copies of the (?list) also have been handed over to the press.

As of 1 September, the Armenian side, through the Kazakh representatives, has proposed many times that Armenia and Azerbaijan appeal to Kazakhstan for the urgent dispatch of observers. They should be deployed on both sides along the state border in order to record the violations and assess them.

The unceasing five-day telephone negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan through the Kazakh representatives in Baku and Yerevan and the meetings held in Alma-Ata and Idzhevanskiy force us to conclude that Azerbaijan has no confidence in Kazakhstan or other mediating countries. It instead has expressed its readiness to receive CSCE observers. We unequivocally assess such a stance as an attempt to keep observers away from the region for at least the next three months. This is because Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the CSCE's Minsk group, clearly stated in Baku and Yerevan that at least three months are needed to implement the CSCE's mechanisms and deploy observers.

Despite that, we, the Armenian Republic, unilaterally appealed to Kazakhstan on 8 September requesting the immediate dispatch of observers to be deployed on Armenian territory along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border to supervise compliance with the Alma-Ata agreement and Idzhevanskiy protocol and to record violations and assess them.

The Azerbaijani foreign minister made a number of formal declarations in Alma-Ata to the effect that Azerbaijani President Elchibey fully controls all Azerbaijani fighters, from [word indistinct] fighters to those armed with modern weapons. Given that the Azerbaijani Republic committed the preceding more than 80 violations after 1 September, this either means they are being committed with Elchibey's permission, or that contrary to the formal assurances by the Azerbaijani foreign minister, Elchibey does not control the domestic situation.

Prompted by all this, the Armenian Republic feels that the Alma-Ata agreement and Idzhevanskiy protocol would be impossible to implement without supervisory mechanisms. The Azerbaijani Army is shelling peaceful settlements that are 10 or more kilometers inside the border. There are many dead, including children, among the peaceful population. As a result of such operations by Azerbaijan, tension continues along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

In expressing distrust toward Kazakhstan and other [word indistinct] countries, the Azerbaijani side is [words indistinct] opposing the dispatch of any observers to the region; and by unilaterally violating the Alma-Ata agreement and Idzhevanskiy protocol, it is openly relinquishing every obligation it has assumed.

By linking the cease-fire with the (?CSCE) process, Azerbaijan is both hindering the Alma-Ata agreement and refusing to support [word indistinct] CSCE's cease-fire proposal with the argument that a cease-fire agreement already has been reached in Alma-Ata.

It remains for Armenia to conclude that despite the calls made by the international community and the explosive situation in the region, and despite Azerbaijan's humanitarian and peace-loving slogans, Azerbaijan has no (?serious intention) to cease the military operations along Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Remaining loyal to the principle of resolving the conflict through peace talks, Armenia will continue to do everything possible to implement the Alma-Ata agreement and Idzhevanskiy protocol on halting military operations all along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. With this intention, Armenia also is unilaterally requesting that other countries and international organizations quickly send observers to Armenia. Armenia is ready to publish through its official media only those violations of the provisions of the Alma-Ata and Idzhevanskiy agreements which the observers also record. [end recording]

[Yerevan SNARK in English at 1113 GMT on 9 September adds the following: "The personal representative of the Armenian president has announced to the SNARK reporter the intentions of Armenia to appeal to Russia, Ukraine, the Islamic Conference and the Arab League with the same request. It is important to have an observer in each rayon of Armenia to control the situation at the Armenian- Azerbaijani border."]

CSCE Chairman Rafaelli Denounces Azerbaijan

LD0909200192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807 GMT 9 Sep 92

[By ARMEN PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan September 9 TASS—Chairman of the CSCE Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh settlement Mario Rafaellli said he was displeased with the stand taken by Azerbaijan on the proposal of a ceasefire

in Nagorno-Karabakh, an adviser to the Armenian President Zhirair Liparityan told journalists on Wednesday [9 September].

According to Liparityan, Rafaelli appealed to the Armenian and Azeri presidents to conclude an armistice. The same was proposed to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Both Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh officially supported the proposal, while Azerbaijan has not responded so far, though it was requested three times to do so.

According to the Armenian adviser, the United States, France and Russia denounced Azerbaijan for using combat helicopters against Karabakh's peaceful residents. Russian representative Vladimir Kazimirov suggested stopping consultations on the problem in Rome and holding them in Minsk instead, as Azerbaijan had used every pretext to break up the Rome talks.

Participants in the Rome talks have informed CSCE officials of Azerbaijan's position.

CSCE demanded that Azerbaijan give a reply to the peace proposal by Mario Rafaelli in Nagorno-Karabakh by September 15.

Azerbaijan

Official Denies Attempt To Kill President

NC1009111592 Baku TURAN in English 0844 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 10 Sep (TURAN)—Press-secretary to the president of Azerbaijan N. Ibragimov denied the mass-media allegations on an attempt on the Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey's life, supposedly made by unknown persons yesterday night. The president is in his residence and working, said Ibrahimov.

The press-secretary said a group of people have picketed the presidential residence on September 8 afternoon. The picketers demanded to stop red taping the burial of 18 Azeri soldiers killed in the action, ought to have place in the martyrs lane.

Police arrested several people, broken window-glasses of the residence's foyer. [sentence as received]

Defense Minister Dismisses Coup Rumors

NC0909162292 Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish 6 Sep 92 p 6

[Text] Rumors of a coup are spreading in Azerbaijan following the arrival of a great number of soldiers in Baku in recent days from the Nagorno-Karabakh front. Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov confirmed the existence of such a danger. In a statement to the press, Khamidov indicated that the situation is very tense in Nagorno-Karabakh and particularly in Baku and that the opposition is preparing an armed coup.

Azerbaijani Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev, however, said that this is only a rumor and added: "Our troops are engaged only in the defense of the country. Those arriving from the front are here to meet their parents."

Rafaelli 'Not Satisfied' With Cease-Fire Reply

LD1009092892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The countries taking part in the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh have noted that Azerbaijan is not interested in a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the conference within the CSCE framework, received a letter from Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey on Azerbaijan's position regarding the issue of a cease-fire. It notes in it that Rafaelli is not satisfied with Azerbaijan's reply since it agrees to a cease-fire on the condition that the Armenian formations are withdrawn from the territory of Lachin and Shusha. [sentence as received]

Spokesmen Trade Charges on Cease-Fire Violations

OW0909202892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his assessment of the the developments which followed after the cease-fire protocol was signed September 3 regarding hostilities at the Azerbaijanian-Armenian border, head of the Azerbaijanian president's press service, N. Ibragimov, remarked that "contrary to our expectations, the Armenian side not only continues subjecting to fire attacks bordering areas in Azerbaijan, but there is a noticeable trend to intensify them".

Mr. Ibragimoov noted that this situation "should be regarded as disrepect of the letter and spirit of the Alma-Ata memorandum and as ingnorance of the cease-fire agreement". At the same time, he noted that "in adhering to a peaceful political settlement of the conflict, Azerbaijan will try to make the maximum use of the political potential of the Alma-Ata memorandum and the settlement mechanisms in the framework of the CSCE."

[In a related report Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1728 GMT on 9 September notes: "David Shakhnazaryan, the Armenian President's spokesman and a member of the Armenian parliament, has told journalists that Azerbaijan has violated the Alma-Ata memorandum and the Ijevan resolution (a document signed by Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Armenian town of Ijevan) providing for a truce along its border with Armenia. For this reason yesterday Armenia asked Kazakhstan to send its observers to be posted along the entire length of the Armenian-Azeri border. Yesterday the request was passed on to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev,

and today the Armenian Foreign Ministry has sent a relevant official note to Alma-Ata.

["Shakhnazaryan said similar requests had been made to other states and organizations, including Russia, Ukraine, and the League of Arab Nations.

["He thinks the Alma-Ata and Ijevan agreements "are impossible to implement due to the absence of monitoring mechanisms."]

Georgia

Abkhazia Factions Agree to 10 Sep Cease-Fire

OW0909190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The warring factions in Abkhazia have had talks in Sukhumi to agree on a cease-fire as of 00:00 September 10. A protocol to that effect was signed by the Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, Abkhazia's Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Labakhua and Deputy Chairman of Russia's State Committee for Emergencies Yuriy Vorobyov.

The protocol says that all armed forces must be disengaged and all hostages and prisoners of war released on Thursday.

The protocol provides for resuming operations by legal bodies of government in Abkhazia as of September 15.

Cease-Fire 'Mostly Observed'

OW1009115392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the military authorities in Sukhumi and Gagry, the conflicting sides mostly observed the cease-fire at night and on Thursday [10 September] morning. On Wednesday evening there was an intensive exchange of fire for an hour and a half in the area of Kolkhida. Simultaneously Abkhaz home guards and volunteers from the Northern Caucasus attacked the positions of Georgian troops outside Gagry. Up to 20 persons died on both sides in the attack.

The chief of the Georgian staff in Abkhazia Badri Grigolashvili told IF [INTERFAX] that after the cease-fire came into force, a big group of Abkhaz and volunteers hit mines near Eshera. At least 30 people were killed and wounded.

According to the Abkhaz side, during the past 24 hours Georgian troops opened fire at positions of Abkhaz guards. One Abkhaz as well as a Russian volunteer from Moscow who took part in the hostilities on the Abkhaz side since the beginning of the conflict were killed.

The press center of the Abkhaz Parliament in Gudauta says five Russian volunteers have died since the beginning of the conflict, while the Georgian Defence Ministry says 150 people have been killed on the Georgian side.

State Council on 'Third Force'

OW0909191992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The state council of Georgia has said that "any third force" in the Abkhazian conflict "opposes centuries-old interests of Georgians and Abkhazians".

In its appeal to the Abkhazian people of September 9 the State Council says that that third force is motivated by its own interests and can only bring misfortune to both Georgians and Abkhazians. "It is our paramount objective to make this third force know its place and send the gangs that have penetrated Georgia to where they have come".

Later in the day the State Council adopted a statement placing the responsibility for effecting the Moscow agreements "on all participants in the meeting and the failure to comply with their pledges will be regarded as a gross violation or defiance of international law".

Kitovani Threatens To Use Afghan Veterans

LD0909210592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Report by Nikolay Kandiashvili; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in the autonomous republic is, in fact, being monitored by the temporary committee for the stabilization of the situation in Abkhazia. Bus and trolleybus traffic already has been restored. The collective farm market and the shops are open. In general the life of Sukhumi's residents is getting back to normal. However, not far from the town, near Gagra, Kolkhida, and Ipnar, three Georgian guards were wounded this morning.

According to a report from the press center of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, on 9 September Georgian troops used heavy weapons in a bombardment in the direction of Gagra. The paradox is that Gagra is controlled by the Georgian side.

Today Tengiz Kitovani announced that, if the Abkhazians start a partisan war, battle-hardened Afghan veterans will be sent to the frontline to replace the young soldiers.

Ioseliani Interviewed on Hostilities

MK0909125592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 3

[Interview with Jaba Ioseliani, deputy chairman of the State Council and commander of the "Mhedrioni" mechanized detachment, by Igor Rotar on 6 September; place not given: "Jaba Ioseliani: 'War Is War'—Georgian State Council Deputy Chairman and Commander of 'Mhedrioni' Mechanized Detachment on Wartime Excesses"]

[Text] [Rotar] Do you think that the war will end soon?

[Ioseliani] You have to understand that highly complex problems have become interwoven here. A communist clan has donned national garb in Abkhazia. Now this clan wants to set up an autonomous republic—this is laughable, when the Abkhaz people constitute a mere 17 percent in this autonomous state formation. The actual Abkhaz problem was provoked by the empire with its old principle of "divide and rule." And it will take time for the Abkhaz people to realize the deception. So it seems to me that this conflict will go on for a long time.

In the global sense the war will, of course, end quickly—we can seize the cities controlled by the separatists. But this will not solve the problems. Outbursts of terrorism could be provoked at any moment.

[Rotar] So does this mean that the Moscow agreement was just a fiction?

[Ioseliani] I don't think so. We are trying not to shoot. Today (6 September) four people were wounded on our side. The guys were straining to take up the fight, but we stopped them after persuading them that we must observe the agreement. It will be a tragedy if the Moscow accords are broken.

[Rotar] Is the Abkhaz side observing the agreement?

[Ioseliani] Of course not.

[Rotar] What actions will Tbilisi undertake?

[Ioseliani] We will not act without the knowledge of other interested countries. We will consult with them on what we should do in such a situation. I believe that each signatory of this document bears responsibility for the events in Abkhazia.

[Rotar] Armenian refugees allege that the Georgian Army is involved in mass pillage and looting.

[Ioseliani] You know, this was the case but it is not now. We are sending a few individual looters to Tbilisi, where they will be tried. You know, when there is war there is violence. And where there is violence there is looting and pillage. What did you think, that war was just a time when people fired shots? Well, unfortunately, it was the case. For example, vehicles were taken away.

[Rotar] Vehicles are seized "for army needs" today, too.

[Ioseliani] But they have no other option, cars don't grow on trees! There has been no sadism. There have merely been minor thefts. Vehicles have been taken.

[Rotar] Indeed, the refugees have made no mention of murder or rape. But they do claim that Georgian soldiers just enter homes and walk off with everything.

[Ioseliani] No, this has already stopped. There has not been one such incident for two days now. Here and there Armenian homes were indeed entered on the pretext that Abkhaz snipers were hiding there.

[Rotar] In the settlement of Leselidze I was approached by two Georgian guards in a state of severe drug-induced intoxication who, for a joke, pointed a submachine gun at me. It was clear that these people were no longer in control of their actions.

[Ioseliani] I cannot argue, this may indeed be so. War is war.

[Rotar] In a conversation with me Georgian State Council member Georgiy Khaindrava said that your opponents' chief strength is made up not of Abkhazians but of the newly arrived volunteers from the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples.

[Ioseliani] I would not say that this is the chief strength, but in any event it is a substantial part of it.

[Rotar] Before long, a serious problem could emerge in the south of Russia: Armed North Caucasian volunteers will be returning to Russia.

[Ioseliani] This is not a problem for Russia. A few hundred armed gunmen—it is simply laughable.

[Rotar] Khaindrava said that there are about 4,000 of them.

[Ioseliani] Even if this is so, it is still not a problem for Russia.

[Rotar] And where will their disarmament take place—here or in Russia?

[Ioseliani] Let's just see what will be more convenient.

Estonia

Hardware Logistics Hamper Paratroop Pullout

PM1009103592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Zadubrovskiy under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Fewer Russian Troops in Estonia"]

[Text] Tallinn, 7 Sep—Under a directive from the chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, the paratroop brigade stationed in the city of Viljandi is being disbanded. Lieutenant Colonel Vyacheslav Posokhov, acting commander, explained that the movement of hardware to a new base is the most complex item on the agenda. There are still 41 items of hardware to be moved, but the Estonian authorities have specified that a convoy must include no more than 10 vehicles. Withdrawal of hardware is being delayed as a result.

Building Values Dispute Delays Post Transfer

LD0909173792 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] Today the Russian Army presented to Estonia new conditions for the handover of Tapa military garrison. The Russian Army estimates the value of the buildings on the Tapa military garrison based on 1984 figures and is demanding that the buildings be paid for in rubles. The Estonian side, however, would not agree to this condition. Thus the act handing over the Tapa military garrison has not been signed.

This was reported to the BNS [Baltic News Service] by Colonel Raul Luks, deputy chief of staff of the defense forces. He could not say how the problem in handing over the Tapa military garrison would be resolved. The Defense Ministry will probably have to deal with the issue, Colonel Luks said.

One of the staff buildings on the Tapa military garrison is currently under the Russian military's jurisdiction, as are a barracks and a clothes and food storehouse. Other structures on the military garrison are being jointly guarded by Estonian Defense Forces and Russian soldiers.

Council Deputy Criticizes Growing Militarization

PM1009120592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 1

[Letter by Supreme Council Deputy Genik Israyelyan; date not given: "'War Games' in the Baltic"]

[Text] Tallinn—Recent events bear witness to the Estonian Republic's growing militarization.

The Estonian Republic Government, bowing to pressure from certain forces, has decided to widen its military department's powers. The Defense Ministry has received more or less exclusive rights to conduct negotiations connected with the Russian Army's withdrawal and the ownership of its property.

We hear increasingly frequent territorial claims against Russia—for the Estonian Republic's border to be fixed in accordance with the Tartu Treaty. The national forces are in a determined frame of mind, clearly intending to bring Russia to its knees and force it to make concessions on the territorial question.

True, this pressure is taking on grotesque forms today. For example, the Estonian Republic's defense forces recently mounted an armed attempt in Tallinn to seize the premises and property of a Russian Army subunit. The attackers were not only disarmed; they were also undressed. Their, excuse me for saying so.... pants were removed. The marines' [morskiye pekhotintsy] commander explained this as being a measure forced on them—to remove blades from the attackers' pockets.

A meeting of former Estonian legionnaires was held on 30 August, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the fascist army's Estonian Legion. About 2,500 people participated, some from abroad. They reminisced about the bygone days of the battle against bolshevism.

Though the Estonian Republic's "war games" are relatively inoffensive today, they should nevertheless force both their "eastern neighbor" and tiny Estonia's own population itself to think seriously. Where, when, and to what wars is the Estonian "Marlborough" preparing to go?

[Signed] Estonian Supreme Council Deputy Genik Israyelyan

Premier Regrets Deputy Minister's Criticisms

LD0909191692 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] Today's extraordinary Supreme Council session, convened at the initiative of 37 deputies, worked for four hours. According to proposals from those who initiated the meeting, only one issue was on the agenda: reports by Premier Tiit Vahi and Estonian Bank President Siim Kallas on the status of the the Estonian economy. The draft resolution on acknowledging the reports was not put to a vote by the Supreme Council because after a lunch break no quorum had assembled.

Beginning his report, Vahi said that in fact the aim of today's meeting is somewhat unclear. He noted that half of the deputies are running for the Riigikogu [new parliament]. This is why the economic situation should be clear to them. If the aim is to influence the government's economic decisions, then according to Vahi, one would have to take into account the fact that for the period still left in which the government might act, it is attempting to resolve the practical issues of preparing for the winter. Or is this a pre-election show? the premier asked. And could one bow out in a respectable manner?

A regular session of the Supreme Council will assemble on 14 September.

Premier Tiit Vahi expressed his regret that Deputy Industry Minister Riivo Sinijarv has begun to publicly criticize the government's activity in the course of his election campaign. In Vahi's opinion, government members' differences of opinion are an internal matter for the government to be resolved in the course of work. Monday's RAHVA HAAL quoted Sinijarv as saying: I am tired of saying that the government should deal first and foremost with the issue of crediting exports, only then tackling the firefighting society's constitution.

The premier noted that Sinijarv is undoubtedly a good man, but many issues recently raised by him are in fact resolved, but perhaps least of all in his own ministry, that is, the Industry Ministry.

In his report, the premier said that hopefully only a couple of weeks are left in this government's mandate. The plan is to, first and foremost, resolve within this period issues related to preparations for the winter.

New Russian Envoy Holds First News Conference

OW0909182492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1737 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Relations with the Baltic countries stand out as one of the priority directions of the Russian foreign policy, and I am looking forward to carrying out a very important and honorable mission," the Russian Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary in the Estonian Republic, Aleksandr Trofimov, said at his first press conference in Tallinn Wednesday [9 September].

The 55 year old career diplomat, Mr Trofimov worked in Togo and Turkey, served in the Central Department of the USSR MFA [ministry of foreign affairs], and in the period from 1987 through 1992 was posted as the Russian Ambassador in Mali. When Mr Trofimov received an offer to head the Russian embassy in Estonia, he, in his words, accepted it inside 15 minutes.

Mr Trofimov admitted that the Russian-Estonian relations are surrounded with many problems. At the same time, he said he was confident that "all the obstacles on the common way of democratic development of the Estonian and Russian peoples will be eliminated".

In the words of Mr Trofimov, he and his colleagues will not limit themselves to political issues only, but they will be equally concerned with the daily problems of the people appealing to it.

Lithuania

Russian Oil Shipments Remain Suspended

OW0909184292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1546 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Shipments of Russian oil and gas to Lithuania will not be renewed until an agreement is reached between the two countries' heads of state. Lithuanian Energy Vice Premier Robertas Tamosiunas told Interfax [as received] that this decision was made during negotiations between Russian and Lithuanian experts preparing a document to be signed on trade and economic cooperation for 1993. This week in Moscow representatives of the Economics, Energy and Material Supply Ministries meet.

As was earlier reported, oil shipments to Lithuania have been entirely ceased, and gas shipments were reduced by more than two times. The Russians have refused to renew the shipments until Lithuania completely pays off its debts. According to Mr. Tamosiunas, oil and gas suppliers raised prices beginning in the middle of Septmeber significantly higher than those set in an intergovernment agreement. This drew disagreement from Lithuania.

Russian demands payment for oil and gas in hard currency or in the Lithuanian national currency if it becomes convertible by that time, Mr. Tamosiunas said. He added that prices have not yet been agreed upon, and that they would most likely be close to world prices (US$110-127 per tonne of oil and US$65-90 per thousand cubic meters of gas).

The experts will continue their work Friday in Moscow.

Budget Spending Exceeds Government Expectations

LD0909163392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 8 Sep 92

[Text] During the past seven months Lithuania's state budget income amounted to 27 billion rubles. Meanwhile the budget spending figure during the same period of time was eighteen billion four hundred million rubles. That is more than it had been planned. This information was released by Lithuania's Finance Ministry. According to the ministry's officials the [word indistinct] in budget spending was caused by state subsidies to compensate for the growing cost of fuel, electricity, and heating. Seven hundred million ruble subsidy was granted to the production of meat and meat products. The government's decision to increase wages by 24 percent to the workers of the budgetary offices will require 24 billion rubles in addition to five billion allotted to some other needs of budgetary organization. In spite of that specialists of the Ministry of Finance believe they will manage to achieve budget balance as at the end of the year they expect the state budget to receive 20 billion rubles coming from taxes.

Delegation Signs Economic Accord With Tatarstan

LD0909182892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] An official delegation from Tatarstan was in Lithuania recently. On 8 September, a news conference was held in Kazan by Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev, who headed the delegation. You may find what the leader of that delegation said interesting:

In Vilnius, the great significance of Tatarstan as a link between East and West was confirmed. Vilnius displayed, as he put it, considerable interest in the situation in the republic, in the course of its foreign economic policy and foreign policy, and in a civilized method of regulating relations with the Russian Federation. In Likhachev's words, the main outcome of the visit to Lithuania was achieving an accord on developing an economic treaty and opening trade missions. Well, that is nice to know.

Sixth Session of Parliament Opens

OW1009130692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1044 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 6th session of the Lithuanian Parliament began in Vilnius on Wednesday [9 September]. The agenda of the first day included the reports of the speaker Vytautas Landsbergis and Prime-Minister Aleksandras Abisala on the economic situation and the program of the cabinet.

The session is to discuss and pass 24 draft documents, among them the constitution, amendments to the law on referendum and a law on bankruptcy.

It has also been suggested to discuss the concept of national security and related draft laws and amendments.